

THE 2026 BUYER'S GUIDE

Final Expense Insurance

Spare your family the bills — affordable coverage, explained honestly.

Mark Snyder · Independent Licensed Agent

Licensed in Nevada, California, Texas & Arizona · NPN 22163900
(504) 453-9443 · marksnyderinsurance.com

A simple, honest guide to final expense coverage

If you've ever worried about leaving your family with funeral bills and final costs, this guide is for you. In a few minutes you'll understand exactly what final expense insurance is, what it costs, how to qualify even with health conditions, and how to avoid the most common mistakes. No jargon, no sales pitch — just the straight facts from a licensed independent agent.

Who this is for

Final expense (also called burial insurance) is designed for adults roughly age 50–85 who want an affordable, guaranteed way to cover funeral, burial or cremation, and any final bills — without a medical exam or a large policy.

What final expense insurance is

Final expense insurance is a small **whole-life** policy built to cover end-of-life costs: the funeral, burial or cremation, and any final medical or household bills. Coverage amounts are typically **\$5,000 to \$25,000**. Because the policy is small and built for older applicants, it's much easier to qualify for than traditional life insurance, and the money is paid **directly to the person you name** as beneficiary, tax-free.

Because it's permanent whole-life coverage, your **premium never increases** and your **coverage never expires** as long as you pay — it doesn't end at a certain age the way term insurance does.

Why families choose it

- **It covers the real bills.** The average funeral runs \$8,000–\$12,000 — before a headstone, flowers, or any unpaid medical and household bills. Final expense is sized to cover exactly these costs.
- **It's easy to qualify.** Most plans use a few yes/no health questions instead of an exam.
- **It's locked in & permanent.** Level premium for life, coverage that never expires.
- **The money arrives fast.** Benefits are paid directly to your beneficiary, usually within days of a claim.

How much coverage do you need?

There's no need to over-buy. A simple way to size your coverage is to add up what you'd actually want handled:

What you're covering	Typical range
Funeral / burial or cremation	\$6,000 – \$12,000
Headstone, flowers, service extras	\$1,000 – \$3,000

What you're covering	Typical range
Final medical / household bills	\$1,000 – \$5,000
A small cushion for family	Your choice

Most people land somewhere between \$10,000 and \$20,000. On a quick call I'll help you pick an amount that fits your budget — not a penny more than you need.

What does it cost?

Premiums depend on your **age**, the **coverage amount**, your **health**, and your **state**. As a rough guide, a non-smoker in their 60s might pay roughly **\$30–\$70 per month for \$10,000** of coverage; rates are higher at older ages. Because carriers price the same person very differently, **comparing multiple A-rated carriers is the single best way to get a fair rate** — which is exactly what an independent agent does for you.

The independent-agent advantage

I'm not captive to one company. I shop multiple A-rated carriers and match you to the one that accepts your age and health at the best available price. If a plan isn't right for you, I'll tell you.

Qualifying — even with health conditions

- **Usually no medical exam.** Most plans use a few health questions — no bloodwork.
- **Common conditions are usually fine.** High blood pressure, diabetes, or being a smoker rarely disqualify you; it's mainly about matching you to the right carrier.
- **Turned down before? Another carrier often says yes.** Different companies accept different histories.
- **Guaranteed-issue plans accept everyone** in the eligible age range with no health questions at all (these include an initial waiting period).

Understand “waiting periods” before you buy

Some plans — usually guaranteed-issue ones for applicants with health issues — have a waiting period (often two years) during which a death from natural causes pays back your premiums plus interest rather than the full benefit. Accidental death is typically covered in full from day one. If you qualify for a fully underwritten plan, there's no waiting period and full coverage starts immediately. I'll always tell you plainly whether a plan has a waiting period.

Ready for real numbers?

Get a free, no-obligation quote for your exact age, state, and health — from a licensed agent, not a call center.

Call or text (504) 453-9443

Book online: marksnyderinsurance.com/schedule

How your family receives the money

Once a claim is filed with a death certificate, most final expense claims are paid within a few business days to a couple of weeks. The benefit goes **directly to the beneficiary you choose** as a tax-free lump sum — they decide how to use it, whether for the funeral home, outstanding bills, or anything else.

Important: this is NOT a government program

Final expense insurance is **private life insurance** offered by insurance carriers. It is **not** part of Medicare, Social Security, or any government program, and it's not the same as a pre-paid funeral plan from a funeral home. Mark Snyder Insurance is not affiliated with or endorsed by any government agency.

Three mistakes to avoid

- **Buying from the first TV ad or call center.** One carrier's "no" or high price isn't the market — comparing carriers can save you real money.
- **Over-buying.** You don't need a \$50,000 policy to cover a funeral. Size it to your actual needs.
- **Not naming/updating your beneficiary.** Keep it current so the money goes exactly where you intend.

Frequently asked questions

What is final expense insurance?

A small whole-life policy designed to cover end-of-life costs — funeral, burial or cremation, and any final medical or household bills. Coverage is typically \$5,000 to \$25,000, it's easier to qualify for than traditional life insurance, and the money is paid directly to your beneficiary.

Do I need a medical exam?

Usually not. Most plans use a few yes/no health questions instead of an exam or bloodwork. Even with common conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, or being a smoker, there's typically a plan that will accept you.

Can I be turned down for health reasons?

Different carriers accept different histories, so even if one says no, another often says yes. For more serious conditions there are guaranteed-issue plans that accept everyone within the eligible age range, with no health questions (these have an initial waiting period).

Will my rate go up or my coverage expire?

No. Final expense is permanent whole-life coverage. As long as you pay the premium, your rate stays level for life and the coverage never expires.

How quickly does my family receive the money?

Once a claim is filed with a death certificate, most claims are paid within a few business days to a couple of weeks, directly to your beneficiary as a tax-free lump sum.

What states are you licensed in?

Nevada, California, Texas, and Arizona (NPN 22163900). In another state? Tell me on the call and I'll let you know how I can help or refer you to a licensed agent in your state.

Let's find your plan today

A 10-minute call is all it takes. I'll compare A-rated carriers and give you real numbers for your age, state, and health — no cost, no obligation.

Call or text (504) 453-9443

Book online: marksnyderinsurance.com/schedule

This guide is general information, not insurance, tax, legal, or financial advice, and not an offer of insurance. Coverage, premiums, waiting periods, and terms vary by age, health, carrier, and state and are determined by the issuing carrier. Cost figures are illustrative ranges, not quotes. Mark Snyder Insurance is a licensed insurance agency (NPN 22163900), licensed in Nevada, California, Texas, and Arizona, and is not affiliated with or endorsed by any government agency or program. © 2026 Mark Snyder Insurance.