



# **F**lameless **C**remation

The natural, gentle, & eco-friendly  
alternative to fire-based cremation



**Flameless Cremation** is a natural, gentle, and eco-friendly form of cremation that uses water to return a body back to Mother Nature. The scientific name for Flameless Cremation is alkaline hydrolysis. It is the same process that occurs in nature if a body is buried in the ground only accelerated. The reason it is considered a green choice is this process releases no mercury emissions, which does occur during the cremation process.



Jeff Edwards stands next to his Alkaline Hydrolysis Machine

With alkaline hydrolysis, an individual body is gently placed in a container that is then placed in a clean, stainless steel vessel. A combination of water flow, temperature and alkalinity are used to accelerate the natural process of tissue hydrolysis.

At the end of the process, the body has been returned to its natural form, completely broken down in water. Remember, our bodies are 65% water to begin with! The only solid remains are the bones which are processed into mineral bone ash.

Flameless Cremation was first introduced to the funeral industry in the United States by Jeff Edwards of Edward Funeral Service, Columbus, Ohio in 2008. Today it is used by funeral homes in 13+ states, Canada, and Europe. It is also used by multiple medical schools including the world renowned Mayo Clinic.

# Environmental Advantages of Flameless Cremation



Because Flameless Cremation is not a combustion process, it is more environmentally friendly. The total carbon footprint is **18 times less** than fire-based cremation.

Compared to fire based cremation, Flameless Cremation reduces:

Natural Gas usage by

**90%**

Electricity usage by

**66%**

Carbon Dioxide emissions by .

**90%**

**100%**

Mercury free

## Other Advantages of Flameless Cremation

- A different choice when it comes to making final arrangements for your loved one.
- Your loved one is not exposed to open flames or 1600 degree heat.
- 20% more ash remains is returned in the urn. The remains are also 100% free of carbon discoloration.
- Medical devices, such as pacemakers, do not have to be removed.



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Since the process uses water, what is the impact of the water usage?**

- Virtually zero. The Flameless Cremation process uses the equivalent of less than 3 days of water usage the average person uses. At the end of the process 99% of the water is returnable to be recycled through a water treatment facility.

**Do I receive anything back after the process is completed?**

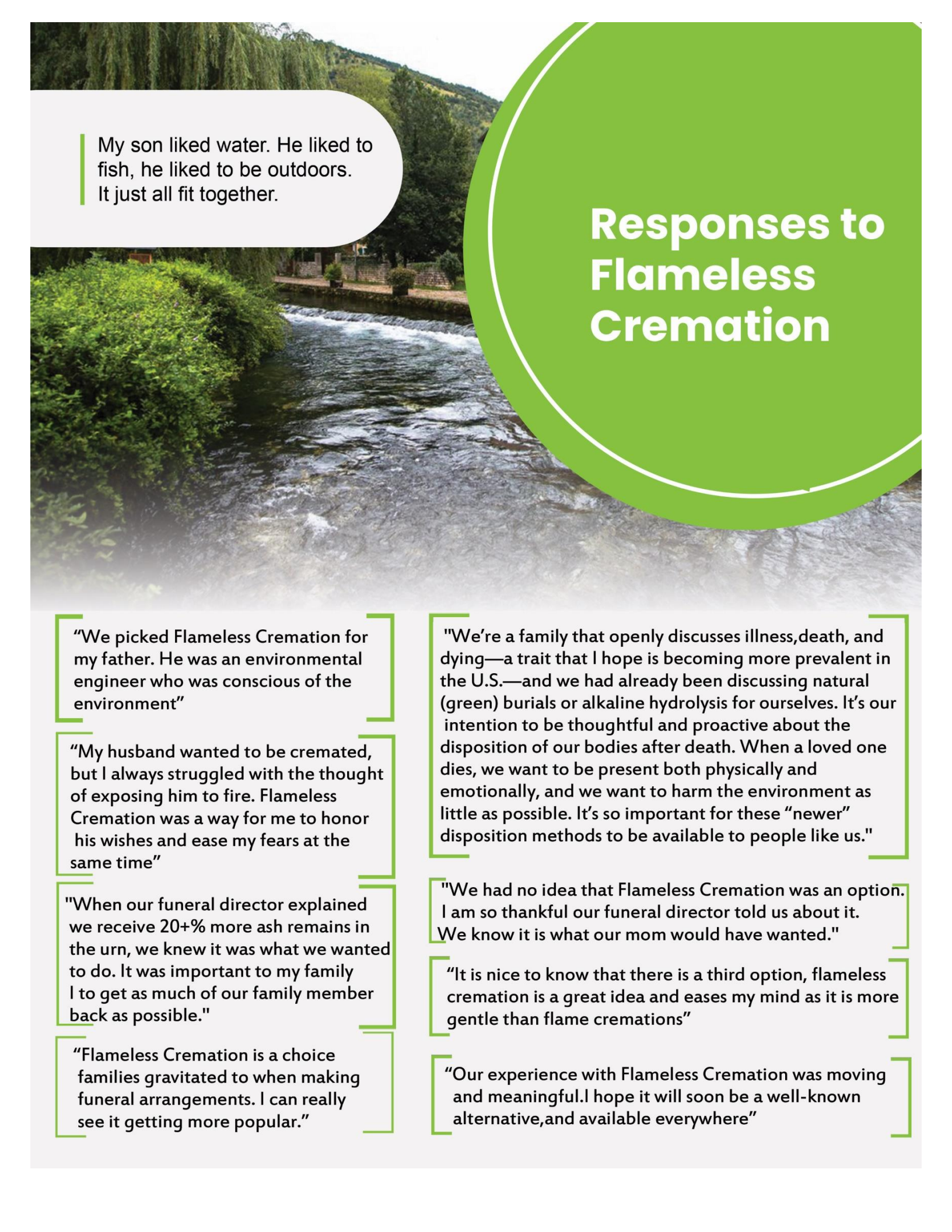
- Yes. At the end of the Flameless Cremation process mineral ash is left behind which are placed in an urn and returned to the family.

**Does Flameless Cremation use acid?**

- No. The alkalis used in the Flameless Cremation process are all natural material. They are the same substances that are used in everyday shaving creams, body washes, and other cosmetic compounds.

**Does the machine operate under intense heat or high pressure?**

- No. while there are some machines that operate under extreme pressure, ours does not. It operates under normal atmospheric pressure and does not exceed 200 degrees. The process takes 12-14 hours to complete.



My son liked water. He liked to fish, he liked to be outdoors. It just all fit together.

## Responses to Flameless Cremation

"We picked Flameless Cremation for my father. He was an environmental engineer who was conscious of the environment"

"My husband wanted to be cremated, but I always struggled with the thought of exposing him to fire. Flameless Cremation was a way for me to honor his wishes and ease my fears at the same time"

"When our funeral director explained we receive 20+% more ash remains in the urn, we knew it was what we wanted to do. It was important to my family I to get as much of our family member back as possible."

"Flameless Cremation is a choice families gravitated to when making funeral arrangements. I can really see it getting more popular."

"We're a family that openly discusses illness, death, and dying—a trait that I hope is becoming more prevalent in the U.S.—and we had already been discussing natural (green) burials or alkaline hydrolysis for ourselves. It's our intention to be thoughtful and proactive about the disposition of our bodies after death. When a loved one dies, we want to be present both physically and emotionally, and we want to harm the environment as little as possible. It's so important for these "newer" disposition methods to be available to people like us."

"We had no idea that Flameless Cremation was an option. I am so thankful our funeral director told us about it. We know it is what our mom would have wanted."

"It is nice to know that there is a third option, flameless cremation is a great idea and eases my mind as it is more gentle than flame cremations"

"Our experience with Flameless Cremation was moving and meaningful. I hope it will soon be a well-known alternative, and available everywhere"



# What type of services can I have with **Flameless Cremation**?

1

## TRADITIONAL

- By utilizing embalming and the use of rental casket, it is possible to have your loved one's body present for the visitation/funeral service. Once the services are completed, the Flameless Cremation process can take place.

2

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

- Families often times have a memorial service with the urn present at a funeral home, church, or place that was special to the deceased.

3

## BURIAL OF URN

- Following the Flameless Cremation process some families desire to have the urn buried in a cemetery. The cremated remains are scientifically proven to be safe for the soil. It is even possible to inter the cremated remains in a biodegradable urn that would completely return to remains to the earth.

4

## FAMILY DISPLAY

- Some families desire to take the urn home and display the urn. It has been proven that the cremated remains leftover following the Flameless Cremation process is safe to handle; disease and pathogen free.

Flameless Cremation is provided by  
**Hughes Funeral Alternatives, LLC.**



## ABOUT THE COMPANY

### Jonathan E. Hughes - Owner

Missouri Licensed Funeral Director, Embalmer, &  
Crematory Operator

Jon was born and raised in Farmington, Missouri. He started working at a local funeral home when he was 15 years old and quickly developed a passion for the funeral business. After high school he attended St. Louis Community College – Forest Park and earned his degree in Funeral Service Education.

Jon has worked in the funeral industry for over 15 years. He is a Missouri licensed funeral director, embalmer, and crematory operator.

Jon's skepticism about Flameless Cremation turned into fascination which ultimately led to the realization that it would be a welcomed choice to families as they make funeral arrangements. Jon's committed to provide the best service possible to funeral homes as they take on this new chapter in the funeral industry.

### Erin Hughes - Owner

Office Manager

Erin was born and raised in Florissant, Missouri. She graduated high school from Incarnate Word Academy and attended college at Truman State University. She received a Bachelor's degree in Health Science. After graduation, Erin attended Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes Jewish College and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Nursing. She is a home health care RN at St. Luke's Hospital.

Jon and Erin were married in 2013. They currently live in South City St. Louis with their daughter, Maggie and dog, Copper.

Jon and Erin opened Hughes Funeral Alternatives, LLC in December of 2017 being the first to offer Flameless Cremation in the state of Missouri. Their company works exclusively through funeral homes in Missouri and Illinois.



# HUGHES

Funeral Alternatives, LLC

## **Hughes Funeral Alternatives, LLC**

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