

# Casket, Cremation or Cremini: Death and Disposition of Remains under Arizona Law

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# Burial, Cremation and Alternatives

- Burial almost universal, at least in European society, until late 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Cremation steadily increasing in popularity since inception
- US: 1/2 today
- Arizona: 1/2 at turn of century, 2/3 today



# Disposing of Cremains



Source: [www.urnabios.com](http://www.urnabios.com)



Source: [www.nmreef.com/](http://www.nmreef.com/)



Source: [www.lovablekeepsakegifts.com](http://www.lovablekeepsakegifts.com)



Source: [www.funeralprogram-site.com](http://www.funeralprogram-site.com)

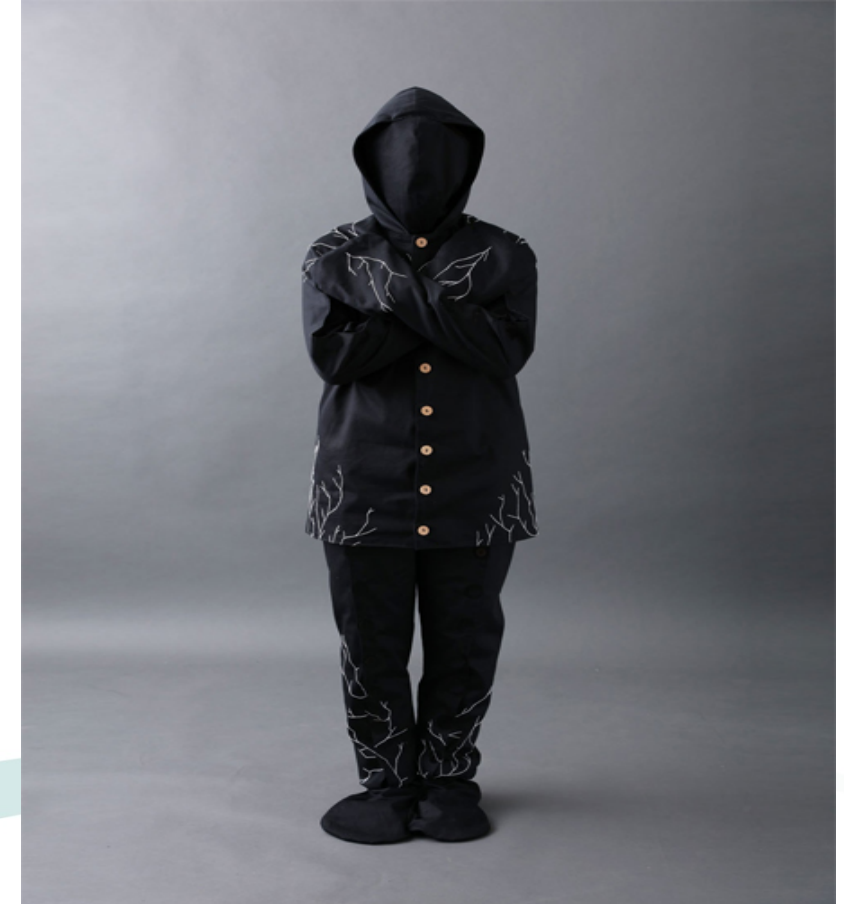




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# Willow Casket / Mushroom Suit





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  - Alkaline hydrolysis

# Alkaline Hydrolysis



Source: [www.resomation.com](http://www.resomation.com), "The Resomater"



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  - Composting





# Other End-of-Life Issues

- Organ donation (check your driver's license)
  - Rev. Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, ARS §36-841 *et seq.*
  - Donate Life Arizona ([www.DonateLifeAZ.org](http://www.DonateLifeAZ.org))
  - Transplant, or transplant and research?
- Full-body donation
  - For-profit companies
  - Non-profit organizations
- Autopsy
  - County medical examiner's role
  - Approving autopsy in planning documents

# Legal Issues

- Common law: “right of sepulcher”
  - *Remick v. Cady*, Wisconsin Ct App 2000
  - *Carruthers v. Serenity Memorial* (Mo App 2019) and *Estate of Collins* (Mo App 2013)
- Arizona statutes:
  - ARS §36-831 (Burial duties ....)
  - ARS §36-831.01 (... duty to comply with decedent’s wishes ....)
  - ARS §32-1365.01 (Cremation or other lawful disposition ... authorization document .... )
- *Ghostley v. Ghostley* (ArizApp 2020)



# Edward Abbey

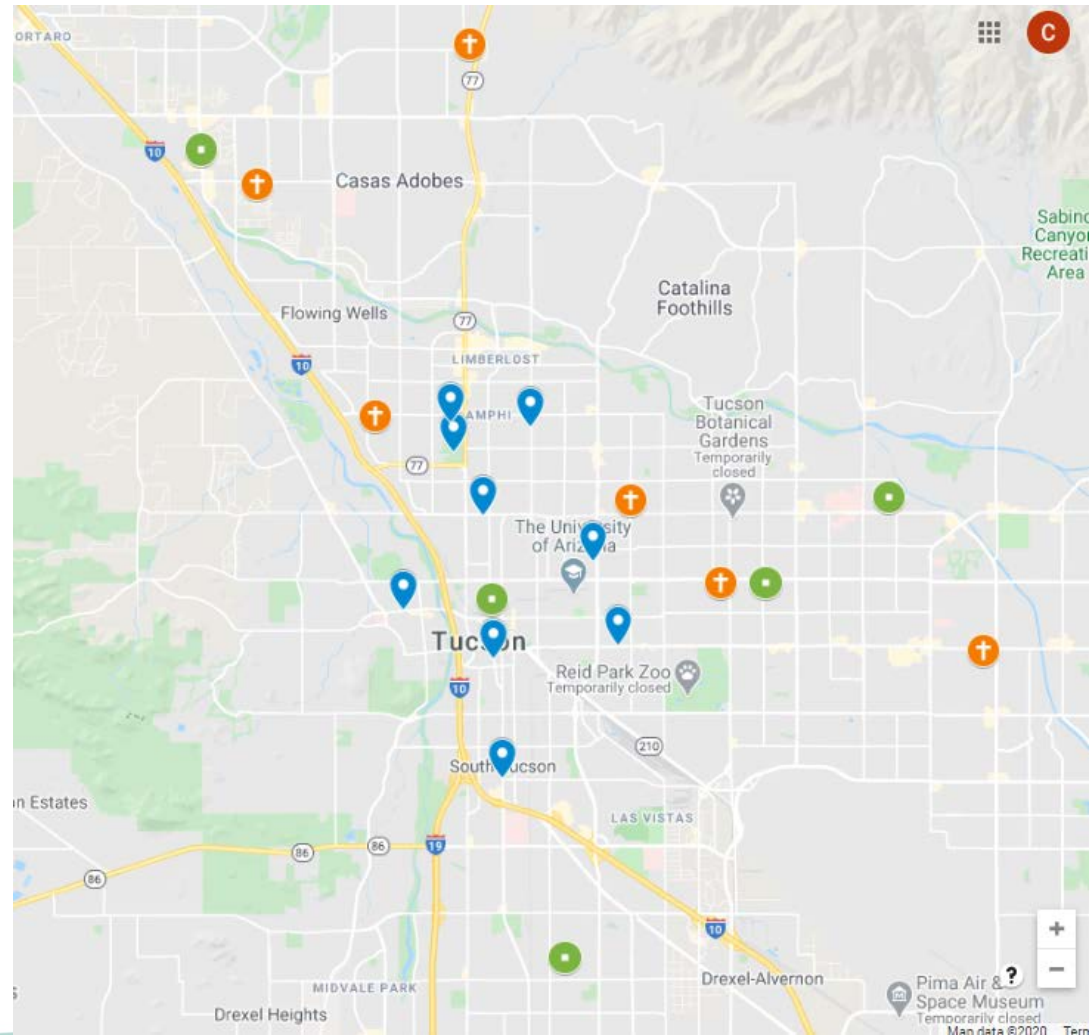
- Ed Abbey, noted author, died in 1989
- From abbeyweb.net:
  - He wanted his body transported in the bed of a pickup truck. He wanted to be buried as soon as possible. He wanted no undertakers. No embalming, for Godsake. No coffin. Just an old sleeping bag... Disregard all state laws concerning burial. "*I want my body to help fertilize the growth of a cactus or cliff rose or sagebrush or tree.*" said the message
  - As for graveside ceremony: He wanted gunfire, and a little music. "*No formal speeches desired, though the deceased will not interfere if someone feels the urge. But keep it all simple and brief.*"

# What's Available in Tucson?

A non-exhaustive look at alternatives



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## Green burial: Marana Mortuary and Cemetery



Source: Google Earth







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**APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT  
SHORT FORM**

**Grand Canyon National Park**  
PO Box 129, 3 Camper Services  
Grand Canyon, AZ, 86023  
928.638.7707. [GRCA\\_Permits\\_Mail@nps.gov](mailto:GRCA_Permits_Mail@nps.gov)



ested below. **Attach additional sheets, if necessary, to provide required information. A**  
*Fee List on Website* must accompany this application unless the requested use is an exercise of a