

Edith C. Churchman, Ph.D., CFSP is a licensed funeral director and embalmer in New Jersey, and is manager at her family funeral home, The James E. Churchman, Jr. Funeral Home in Newark, NJ. She is the 4th generation licensed funeral service professional in her family business which was founded by her great grandfather, Rev. James E. Churchman in 1899. The business is unique as it was begun as a funeral home and not, as was the custom at the time, as a cabinet making business.

Edith is a graduate of the Newark Public Schools System including Arts High School where she majored in music. She then went on to attend Heidelberg College Tiffin, Ohio receiving a Bachelor's degree in Speech and Theatre Arts; Emerson College Boston, Massachusetts receiving a Master's degree in Rhetoric and Public Address; and Bowling Green State University in Ohio where she received her Ph.D. in Interpersonal and Public Communication. Edith also attended and graduated from New England Institute receiving a certificate in funeral service.

A member of many state, national, and local funeral service organizations including the National Funeral Directors Association, the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, Garden State Funeral Directors Association, New Jersey State Funeral Directors Association and the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice, Edith has been published in many funeral service publications. She has also lectured extensively on funeral service topics in the United States and internationally, in addition to being a sought after Continuing Education provider for funeral service professionals.

In 2011 Edith wrote the play, "*Laid Out: The Business of Funerals*"[®] which has toured the United States, and been performed often in New Jersey. She is also the author of *Things to Do Before You Are Laid Out*[®].

Edith is the proud mother of Brandon Churchman-West and A. Simone Churchman and a proud grandmother of Mar.