

Everest Rolls Out Innovative Employee Benefits Solution

Valued Employees Receive Assistance to Handle Difficult End of Life Issues

HOUSTON, April 3, 2007 – In the past, employers touted employee benefits that offered cradle-to-grave coverage but in reality, families usually handled end of life issues on their own. Today, companies have a new tool available to ease the heavy burden of end of life decisions for their employees through the invaluable planning and cost-savings services of EverestSM, the nation's leading consumer advocate for funerals and the first nationwide funeral planning and concierge service.

With the rollout of a new employee benefits solution from Everest, employers can now offer cradle-to-grave coverage in its truest sense by providing extensive funeral planning assistance to valued employees. Everest's highly customized benefit packages empower employees with the resources they need to make crucial decisions on difficult and costly issues facing their families at the end of life.

Across the U.S., more than 65,000 employees, their immediate families and retirees can already access Everest's extensive suite of planning tools and products as an added employee benefit and several significant corporate contracts are planned for the near future.

"We see a significant need in the employee benefits arena for what Everest has to offer," said Mark Duffey, President and CEO of Everest. "In the past, companies could provide little assistance to valued employees charged with handling complex funeral issues for themselves and those they love. While decisions such as these are never easy, Everest takes much of that burden off of the employees and places it squarely on the shoulders of experts who provide the highest level of assistance every step of the way."

Everest's advance planning tools afford personalized assistance so users can create a plan specifying their individual end of life needs and desires. This includes a comprehensive planning guide, phone-based assistance from a well-trained and compassionate planning advisor to guide creation of a "My Wishes" plan and ongoing storage and maintenance of the plan until it is needed. At any time, users can revise and update their plan to ensure it continually meets their needs. Employees and retirees will also have access to Everest's newest product, the Everest PriceFinderSM Report which empowers consumers with the ability to quickly and easily compare costs for funeral services within their community.

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During times of greatest need, Everest's concierge services will review the "My Wishes" plan with the family, conduct price surveys, help the family negotiate terms and pricing with the funeral home of choice, communicate the plan to the funeral home and provide around-the-clock assistance for the family throughout the process.

Everest's information technology services are delivered by EDS, which enables the company to handle large-scale implementations such as their employee benefits solution. As the founder of the information technology outsourcing industry 45 years ago, EDS is a leading global technology services company, delivering a broad portfolio of information technology services to clients around the world.

About Everest

Everest is an independent consumer advocate providing funeral planning and concierge services. Its sole purpose is to provide the information families need to make the most informed decisions about all funeral-related issues. As an impartial consumer advocate, Everest is not a funeral home, does not sell funeral goods or services, and does not receive commissions from funeral homes or other service providers in the funeral industry.

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