



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'cfree.3'

\$ man cfree.3

cfree(3) Library Functions Manual cfree(3)

NAME

cfree - free allocated memory

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdlib.h>

/* In SunOS 4 */

int cfree(void *ptr);

/* In glibc or FreeBSD libcompat */

void cfree(void *ptr);

/* In SCO OpenServer */

void cfree(unsigned int n, unsigned int size;
           char ptr[size * n], unsigned int n, unsigned int size);

/* In Solaris watchmalloc.so.1 */

void cfree(size_t n, size_t size;
           void ptr[size * n], size_t n, size_t size);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see feature_test_macros(7)):

cfree():

Since glibc 2.19:

 _DEFAULT_SOURCE

glibc 2.19 and earlier:

 _BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE

DESCRIPTION

This function should never be used. Use `free(3)` instead. Starting with glibc 2.26, it has been removed from glibc.

1-arg cfree

In glibc, the function `cfree()` is a synonym for `free(3)`, "added for compatibility with SunOS".

Other systems have other functions with this name. The declaration is sometimes in `<stdlib.h>` and sometimes in `<malloc.h>`.

3-arg cfree

Some SCO and Solaris versions have malloc libraries with a 3-argument cfree(), apparently as an analog to calloc(3).

If you need it while porting something, add

```
#define cfree(p, n, s) free((p))
```

to your file.

A frequently asked question is "Can I use `free(3)` to free memory allocated with `calloc(3)`, or do I need `cfree()`?" Answer: use `free(3)`.

An SCO manual writes: "The cfree routine is provided for compliance to the iBCSe2 standard and simply calls free. The n and size arguments to cfree are not used."

RETURN VALUE

The SunOS version of `cfree()` (which is a synonym for `free(3)`) returns 1 on success and 0 on failure. In case of error, `errno` is set to `EINVAL`: the value of `ptr` was not a pointer to a block previously allocated by one of the routines in the `malloc(3)` family.

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see `attributes(7)`.

[illegible]

? Interface	? Attribute	? Value	?

[illegible]

<code>? cfree()</code>	<code>? Thread safety ? MT-Safe /* In glibc */ ?</code>
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[illegible]

VERSIONS

The 3-argument version of `cfree()` as used by SCO conforms to the iBCSe2 standard: Intel386 Binary Compatibility Specification, Edition 2.

STANDARDS

None.

HISTORY

Removed in glibc 2.26.

SEE ALSO

[malloc\(3\)](#)

[Linux man-pages 6.17](#)

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[cfree\(3\)](#)