



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING
PO Box 9020 • Olympia, Washington 98507-9020

March 28, 2020

Re: Funeral and embalming requirements during the COVID-19 emergency

Dear Funeral, Embalmer, and Cemetery Licensees:

The purpose of this communication is to clarify Governor Inslee's "Stay Home – Stay Healthy" [Proclamation 20-25](#) regarding funerals.

Governor Inslee recognizes the critical role you play in this unprecedented time. As your licensing agency for mortuary services, we provide the following guidance. Licensed funeral homes and cemeteries may conduct funeral services in a funeral home or graveside under the following conditions:

- Funerals are only attended by immediate family members of the deceased.
- The family members in attendance must maintain proper social distancing, defined by the Centers for Disease Control as staying six feet apart.

We have also received questions about embalming. Proclamation 20-25 does not prohibit embalming.

Thank you for coming together to keep our families safe and ensure social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19.

For additional updates and resources to help you navigate the COVID-19 outbreak, visit:

- <https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/covid-19-resources>
- <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

If you have any questions, please contact Rick Storvick, Regulatory Boards Administrator, at 360-664-1387 or email at rstorvick@dol.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Teresa Berntsen

Teresa Berntsen
Director

cc: Jennifer Clawson, Assistant Director, Business and Professions Division