



Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
35 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0035

Anne L. Head
Commissioner

April 3, 2020

Dear Maine Funeral Practitioner:

Although Maine funeral establishments have been designated “essential” by Order of Governor Mills and the US Department of Homeland Security, it is critically important for funeral practitioners to comply with physical distancing requirements when serving clients. This means that you, as a licensed practitioner, are responsible for the health and safety of your clients and visitors while they are on your premises.

Based on the Governor’s Orders and Maine CDC guidance, the following actions are recommended:

Funeral Arrangement Considerations: Licensed Funeral Practitioners may engage in in-person funeral arrangements with a maximum of five (5) family members in a room with square footage that suitably allows for Social Distancing. Practitioners should have gloves, if available. Masks and gloves should be present upon entry, if available, for the attending family members. Facility usage should be limited to a controlled segment of the establishment that can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to and after the arrangement conference.

Private viewing of deceased with or without ceremony: Licensed Funeral Practitioners may engage in viewing of the deceased with a maximum of five (5) family members in the facility, in a room with square footage that suitably allows for Social Distancing. Practitioners should have PPE, if available. Masks and gloves should be present upon entry, if available, for the attending family members. Facility usage should be limited to a controlled segment of the establishment that can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to and after the viewing conference.

Private acceptance of the cremated remains (return of the urn to a family after cremation): Licensed Funeral Practitioners may engage in in-person return of an urn with a maximum of two (2) family members in a room with square footage that suitably allows for Social Distancing. Practitioners should have gloves, if available. Masks and gloves should be present upon entry, if available, for the attending family members. Facility usage should be limited to a controlled segment of the establishment that can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to and after the arrangement conference.

OFFICES LOCATED AT: 76 NORTHERN AVENUE, GARDINER, MAINE

PHONE: (207)624-8511 (VOICE)

TTY users: call Maine Relay 711

FAX: (207)624-8595

Private viewing of an interment / burial: Licensed Funeral Practitioners may engage in private graveside burial services (if allowed by the cemetery). A maximum of ten (10) persons including the funeral practitioner and staff as well as any cemetery staff in attendance. Enforcement of proper Social Distancing shall be the responsibility of the Funeral Practitioner. These persons can either remain in their vehicles or exit their vehicles if Social Distancing rules are followed. Practitioners should have gloves, if available. Masks and gloves should be present upon entry, if available, for the attending family members.

It important to note that some cities in Maine have implemented even stricter physical distancing guidelines that must be followed if you are operating in those cities or towns.

As proposed by the National Funeral Directors Association, consider webcasting or live streaming a funeral or visitation for those who cannot be physically present. For more guidance from the NFDA please click this link <https://www.nfda.org/covid-19/visitations-funerals>. Please note that the physical distancing guidance on the NFDA site is specific to the federal guidelines. Maine and some cities and towns have stricter guidelines that need to be followed in Maine.

Please visit this link <https://www.maine.gov/pfr/consumer/COVID-Information> for more information that may be helpful to you or your business, including links to the Maine CDC and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. Visit this link to access the [CDC's frequently asked questions](#) which includes questions on COVID-19 and funerals.

Thank you for all of your efforts to care for grieving Maine families during this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to contact the board at funeral.board@maine.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Anne L. Head

Anne L. Head
Commissioner