



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

March 31, 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.

It is extremely important for you to comply with physical distancing rules at all times. Based on the Governor’s Orders and Maine CDC guidance, the following physical distancing rules for visitations and funerals, including graveside funerals, should be observed:

1. Gatherings of more than 10 individuals are not permitted.
2. All employees, clients and visitors must be separated by 6 feet at all times. Designate with signage, tape or by other means the six-foot spacing to maintain appropriate distance;
3. Have hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees, clients and visitors;
4. Implement separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable clients and visitors;
5. Post online when your facility is open and include information on how to reach your facility and continue providing your services by phone or remotely.

It is also 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. Click here to see the Governor’s [Executive Order](#) prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people (note that this order has been extended to April 8, 2020

OFFICES LOCATED AT: 76 NORTHERN AVENUE, GARDINER, MAINE

and may be extended further.) Click 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](mailto:funeral.board@maine.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Anne L. Head*

Anne L. Head  
Commissioner