



Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

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GUIDANCE FOR FUNERAL SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Illinois Department of Public Health issued guidance on March 27, 2020 as to preventative actions to inhibit the spread of COVID-19 in funeral homes, including during funeral services. In accordance, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation is providing the following guidance for Illinois licensed Funeral Directors and Embalmers (FDE) for providing funeral services:

- Funerals or visitations can be held and should follow the CDC guidelines:
 - Viewings and graveside services should be limited to 10 people or less
 - If more than 10 people are expected at the viewings, try to provide ways to join the service remotely or offer to record the funeral service for later viewing
 - Viewings should only be done with bodies that have been embalmed
- Attendees should:
 - Observe social distancing recommendations
 - Stay home if sick
 - Follow proper hand hygiene protocols (use of facemasks, washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol)
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouths with unwashed hands
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick
 - Avoid kissing, washing, and shrouding the body before, during, and after the body has been prepared
 - If important to religious/cultural practice, FDEs should work with community cultural and religious leaders as well as family on how to reduce exposure
- Decedents with COVID-19 can be buried or cremated, FDEs must ensure that any additional state or local requirements are met
- IDPH's Funeral Home Guidance is available at: www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/funeral-homes
- CDC guidelines are available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>