

IMPORTANT UPDATE



NEWS FROM THE NEW JERSEY STATE FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Dear NJSFDA Member,

Since Executive Directive 20-010 was released on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 the NJSFDA has been in communication with the Governor's staff, the Commissioner of the Department of Health and the Office of the Attorney General in an attempt to lessen restrictions imposed in the Directive.

To that end, the New Jersey State Board of Mortuary Science will issue a detailed advisory offering much needed clarification via email to every licensee, cemetery and crematory in the state.

The following key points are important to note (please review the [COVID-19 ADVISORY FOR NEW JERSEY CEMETERIES AND MORTUARIES](#) once emailed to you directly by the Mortuary Board for complete details):

- Open-casket identification is now permitted although traditional, public, open-casket viewings, visitations and ceremonies are not
 - Every gathering remains limited to no more than ten individuals
- Although embalming remains is discouraged, it may be performed
- Registered interns may immediately begin witnessing dispositions, in lieu of a New Jersey licensee
- Temporary refrigeration remains available for funeral home storage of decedents, with no limitation
- Licensees are required to complete a new weekly mandatory "situational awareness" survey located on the Mortuary Board website
- Funeral homes are obliged to contract with Reciprocal Services Mortuaries in other counties.

Our advocacy on your behalf with the State makes clear that less than ten family members can once again identify and spend time with a decedent in an open casket or container prior to disposition during this state of emergency.

We are grateful for the guidance issued by the Mortuary Board and urge everyone to do their part in complying with the advisory as you continue to humanely help families through this uncertain time.

George R. Kelder Jr., CFSP
CEO/Executive Director

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COVID-19**

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