



Does the person paying for services have the right to make the arrangements and the right of disposition?

No, the right of disposition and the right to make arrangements follow the lineage statute as identified in Health Occupations Article Title §7-410.

Does the Board recommend qualified/experienced individuals for employment?

The Board is happy to assist your establishment by listing job openings in its Newsletter; however, our web site is managed by IT Dept. at Headquarters. Please provide your company name, location, and position to be filled to Eula Gautreaux, Licensing Chief, at eula.gautreaux@maryland.gov.

Can licensees submit articles of interest for inclusion in the BMFD Newsletter?

Yes, licensees are encouraged to submit articles/news relative to the industry to Gail V. Tucker, Executive Director (ED), at gailv.tucker@maryland.gov. Inclusion is at the discretion of the ED.

What is the application submission cut-off date for inclusion on the agenda?

All applications/supporting documentation must be received by the last Wednesday of the month prior to the Board meeting.

Does the Board offer seminars for CEUs?

Although previously provided, the Board voted in February 2019 that it would no longer permit Board staff to offer CEU seminars. However, as CEU opportunities become available from other venues, they can be posted on the web site upon request.

Are there special requirements for domestic partnerships?

Maryland requires a written affidavit with both individual's signatures stating that they have established a domestic partnership. In addition to the signed affidavit, provide any two of the documents listed under Health General Article, Section 6-101 found at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmStatutesText.aspx?article=ghg§ion=6-101&ext=html&session=2019RS&tab=subject5>

How long is the complaint process?

There is no definitive time for the complaint process. Following a thorough investigation, complaints are then reviewed by the Complaint Committee. Board decisions are rendered during monthly Board meetings, which occur the second Wednesday of each month, except August.

What information is required on my General Price List (GPL)?

The GPL should be printed or typewritten and must contain the following identifying information:

- the name, address, and telephone number of the funeral provider's place of business, including the address and telephone number for each branch;
- the caption: "General Price List;" and
- the effective date of the price list.

Six required disclosures on the GPL: 1) the consumer's right to select only the goods and service desired; 2) embalming; 3) alternative containers for direct cremation; 4) the basic services fees; 5) the casket price list; and 6) the outer burial container price list.

Does the Maryland Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors offer financial assistance for burial or cremation?

No, the Board does not offer financial assistance. However, an Internet search may recommend various agencies that provide burial assistance programs and/or alternative options.

What happens if my loved one's body is unclaimed?

After 72 hours, unclaimed decedents are transferred to the State Anatomy Board. They can be reached at 410-706-3313.

How do I get a death certificate?

Death certificates are provided to funeral directors when a body is released from the medical facility. Copies of death certificates can be obtained from Division of Vital Records, 6764B Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD 21215, 410-764-3038.

Can family members object to or a prevent an autopsy?

When Maryland law requires the medical examiner to perform an autopsy, family permission is not needed. A family may object to an autopsy because of religious beliefs as defined in Maryland Statute §5-310(b)(2). In this case, the medical examiner will review the matter to determine whether it is absolutely necessary to perform an autopsy over a family's objections. If, after review, the Medical Examiner determines that an autopsy is required, the family can ask a court to intervene and grant an injunction to avert the procedure until a hearing is scheduled. Please be aware these legal proceedings can take many days and will delay the release of the body to a funeral director.

May I transport my deceased loved one across state line?

Yes. The first step is to contact the funeral home at your selected destination. The funeral home in your destination state will contact your local funeral home and coordinate to prepare your loved one for transport. In most cases, your local funeral home is required to embalm your loved one for burial before transport within 48 hours following a death. The destination funeral home will complete funeral preparations. Depending on the distance between both funeral homes, the body will likely be transported by vehicle or plane to the final destination.

Next, obtain a burial transit permit – a record of the deceased's cause of death, their personal information, your contact information, and the release documentation needed to transport your loved one's remains. In Maryland, a copy of the death certificate that has been signed by a doctor or medical examiner serves as a burial-transit permit, which allows you to move the body to prepare it for final disposition.

The cemetery manager, crematory manager, or other person in charge of final disposition must sign and file the permit with the Maryland Department of Health within ten days after disposal of the remains.