

# FUNERAL SERVICE DECORUM

Funeral Services are difficult events not only for the immediate family of the deceased, but also for those in supporting roles...relatives, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. Basic ideologies:

## ACKNOWLEDGING THE LOSS...

- **Be a good listener.** If the family wants to talk about their loved one, let them.
- **Always refer to the deceased by his/her name**, i.e., Jane or John Doe.
- **Focus on the needs of the family members and survivors**, not on yourself, or your grief, etc.

## ATTENDING THE FUNERAL...

- **Arrive on time.** Pay your respects to the family and offer sympathy. Once you have spoken to the family member(s), swiftly find your seat for the service.
- **Dress appropriately.** Guidelines calling for traditional formal black attire no longer exist. However, dressing conservatively remains a sign of respect. Attention should be on the mourners of the deceased and not inappropriate attire.
- **Sign the Register Book**, don't assume the grieving family will recall who all were in attendance.
- **Do NOT take photos**, unless you have been asked by the family to record the event. Any photography should be approved by the family prior to the service.
- **Be quiet.** Unless you are at the viewing, keep conversations to a minimum. Turn off cell phones, tablets, cameras, or other electronic devices.
- **Children:** Often children provide needed comfort, but do not allow them to be disturbing or active. Should they become agitated, excuse yourself and escort them from the service.
- **Never bring food or beverages into the funeral or chapel**, unless it is a bottle for an infant.

## TRAVELING TO THE CEMETERY...

- **Follow the instructions** of the funeral director, establishment, or other personnel.
- **Use your headlights and emergency flashers** while in the funeral procession.
- As the procession approaches stop signs or intersections where the light is red, **continue through the intersection with extreme caution.**
- **Stay in close proximity** to the vehicle ahead of you.
- **Keep voice levels to a minimum.** Do NOT engage in cell phone conversations.
- **Graveside seating** is for the immediate family members, guests with disabilities, and the elderly – all other guests should stand.
- **Do NOT sit or lean** on memorials or gravestones.