

Michael Mathieu
Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory
1 Ridgecrest Road
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July 12, 2022

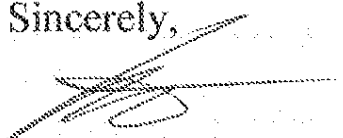
WV Board of Funeral Service
179 Summers Street, Suite 319
Charleston, WV 25301

Dear WV Board,

In regards to the new legislation session to update the Series 1, 2 & 7 rules. I don't believe allowing Funeral Director only licensing without mortuary schooling or passing a national board is going to be beneficial to our Funeral Industry in West Virginia. It may increase our Funeral Directors in the State but over a period of time there will be very few embalmers left. Why 1- go to mortuary school and 2- pass a national board when probably your ultimate goal is to direct funerals. Not many individuals want to embalm there entire career, if at all. Also to be a knowledgeable funeral director and able to counsel and guide a family, shouldn't you know the whole business aspect, including how to prepare the body? It was also brought to my attention that you needed a 4 year baccalaureate degree to apply for a funeral director only license, is this true? and if so where is it stated in the new rules?

In regards to the licensee in charge requirements, why would you need a crematory operator's certificate if you do not have a crematory?? If this is being put into place so the licensee is knowledgeable of the crematory process then why should the funeral director only license not be knowledgeable of the embalming process?

Sincerely,



Michael Mathieu
Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory



Linda Lyter, Executive Director
Grady M. Bowyer, Office Manager
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STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
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July 20, 2022

Grissell Funeral Home & Crematory
ATTN: Michael Mathieu
1 Ridgecrest Road
Wheeling / Bethlehem, WV 26003

Dear Mr. Mathieu;

We have received and thank you for your comments concerning the changes to the Board's Series 1, 2 & 7 Rules. The answers to your questions stated in your letter are as follows:

1. Throughout the past few years, the Board has been made aware that there has been a need to increase the number of funeral directors in the state especially during the COVID 19 pandemic. This matter has been discussed, voted on and subsequently passed the legislative process to offer a Funeral Director Only license. The Board reviewed information from other states that offer this type of a license. The Board feels once an individual has completed the two (2) year Apprenticeship, they will be familiar with all aspects of the funeral profession, including some knowledge on embalming and crematory procedures. They will not be qualified to embalm bodies, but should have the basic knowledge to explain the procedure to a family. Once they obtain their Funeral Director Only license, the licensee may potentially want to pursue the other avenues, such as attending mortuary school and obtaining an embalmer's license. This will allow individuals to move forward with their education and training, thus creating more funeral directors and embalmers, if they so choose to seek the funeral service license.

2. The requirements for the Funeral Director Only title is in W. Va Code, §30-6-9 (a)(1) - "Completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution"

3. The licensee-in-charge (LIC) should have knowledge of all forms of disposition in order to answer questions from families concerning what is involved with the final disposition of a body. In regards to the crematory operator requirement, the funeral service licensee may need to remove any medical devices from the deceased prior to cremation. The LIC's duties are to ensure the employees under their supervision are knowledgeable of what is involved in each form of disposition as well as themselves as a LIC.

Again, thank you for taking the time to submit your comments concerning these Rule changes. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office at the number above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Lyter".

Linda Lyter
Executive Director

LL/gmb