
Call to Order – Lacyn Barton, FSL, Committee Chair

- Welcome and Introductions
- Emergency Egress Procedures – **Corie E. Tillman Wolf, JD, Executive Director**

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Discussion and Committee Recommendations

- Review of Requirements for Preparation Rooms When Embalming Not Performed - Board Regulations Governing the Practice of Funeral Services (18VAC65-20-10 et seq.)
 - Amendments to Board Regulations
 - Guidance to Staff on Approval of Applications for New Establishments Where Embalming Not Performed
 - Guidance to Inspectors on Equipment Required in Preparation Rooms for Establishments Where Embalming Not Performed
- Inspections of Funeral Establishments and Crematories
 - Review of Recommendations to Streamline Inspection Process
 - Updates to Board Guidance Document 65-11 – Guidance for Inspectors and Licensees
- Proposed Revisions to Policy Documents
 - Board Bylaws
 - Guidelines for Processing Applications for Licensure
- 2026 Legislative Proposal
 - Funeral Interns – Criminal History, Other – Virginia Code § 54.1-2817
- Online, Self-Guided Funeral or Preneed Planning Tools – Guidance for Licensees

Next Steps

Meeting Adjournment

This information is in **DRAFT** form and is subject to change. The official agenda and packet will be approved by the public body at the meeting and will be available to the public pursuant to the Code of Virginia.

General Regulations
Governing the Practice
of Funeral Services
(18VAC65-20-10 et seq.)

Virginia Administrative Code
Title 18. Professional And Occupational Licensing
Agency 65. Board of Funeral Directors And Embalmers
Chapter 20. Regulations Governing the Practice of Funeral Services

Part I. General Provisions

18VAC65-20-10. Definitions.

Words and terms used in this chapter shall have the definitions ascribed in § 54.1-2800 of the Code of Virginia or in 16 CFR Part 453, Funeral Industry Practices, of the Federal Trade Commission, which is incorporated by reference in this chapter. In addition, the following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Affiliation" or "affiliated" means a relationship involving a degree of common or subsidiary ownership between two establishments or entities.

"Branch" or "chapel" means a funeral service establishment that is affiliated with a licensed main establishment and that conforms with the requirements of § 54.1-2811 of the Code of Virginia.

"Courtesy card" means the card issued by the board that grants limited and restricted funeral service privileges in the Commonwealth to out-of-state funeral service licensees, funeral directors, and embalmers.

"Cremation container" means a container in which human remains are transported to the crematory and placed in the retort for cremation.

"Cremation urn" means a wood, metal, stone, plastic, or composition container or a container of other material, which is designed for encasing cremated ashes.

"Cremation vault" or "cremation outer burial container" means any container that is designed for encasement of an inner container or urn containing cremated ashes. Also known as a cremation box.

"FTC" means the Federal Trade Commission.

"Manager of record" means a funeral service licensee or licensed funeral director who is responsible for the direct supervision and management of a funeral service establishment or branch facility.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 1.1, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 20, Issue 8, eff. January 28, 2004; Volume 25, Issue 20, eff. July 8, 2009; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-20-15. Criteria for delegation of informal fact-finding proceedings to an agency subordinate.

A. Decision to delegate. In accordance with subdivision 10 of § 54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia, the board may delegate an informal fact-finding proceeding to an agency subordinate.

B. Criteria for delegation. Cases that may not be delegated to an agency subordinate, except with the concurrence of a committee of the board, are those that involve:

1. Intentional or negligent conduct that causes or is likely to cause injury;
2. Conducting the practice of funeral services in such a manner as to constitute a danger to the health, safety, and well-being of the staff or the public;
3. Impairment with an inability to practice with skill and safety;
4. Inappropriate handling of dead human bodies;
5. Sexual misconduct;
6. Misappropriation of funds;
7. Aiding or abetting unauthorized practice; or
8. Felony conviction by an applicant.

C. Criteria for an agency subordinate.

1. An agency subordinate authorized by the board to conduct an informal fact-finding proceeding may include board members deemed knowledgeable by virtue of their training and experience in administrative proceedings involving the regulation and discipline of health professionals.
2. The executive director shall maintain a list of appropriately qualified persons to whom an informal fact-finding proceeding may be delegated.
3. The board may delegate to the executive director the selection of the agency subordinate who is deemed appropriately qualified to conduct a proceeding based on the qualifications of the subordinate and the type of case being heard.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 21, Issue 18, eff. June 15, 2005; amended, Virginia Register Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008; Volume 40, Issue 4, eff. November 8, 2023.

18VAC65-20-50. Posting of license.

A. Each licensee shall post an original or photocopy of his license in a place conspicuous to consumers of funeral services in each establishment or branch where he practices.

B. The establishment license shall be posted in a place conspicuous to consumers of funeral services.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 2.1, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 20, Issue 8, eff. January 28, 2004; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-20-60. Accuracy of information.

A. All changes in the address of record or the public address, if different from the address of record, or in the name of a licensee or registrant shall be furnished to the board within 30 days after the change occurs.

B. Any change in ownership or manager of record for an establishment or crematory shall be reported to the board within 14 days of the change.

C. A surface transportation and removal service shall notify the board within 14 days of any change in the name of the manager of record with the board.

D. All notices required by law and by this chapter to be provided by the board to any registrant or licensee shall be validly given when mailed to the latest address of record on file with the board and shall not relieve the licensee, funeral service intern, establishment, crematory, or firm of obligation to comply. Renewal notices may be mailed or sent electronically by the board.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 2.2, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 22, Issue 21, eff. July 26, 2006; Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008; Volume 25, Issue 17, eff. July 1, 2009; Volume 25, Issue 20, eff. July 8, 2009; Volume 31, Issue 26, eff. September 23, 2015; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-20-70. Required fees.

A. The following fees shall apply for initial licensure or registration:

1. License to practice funeral service or as a funeral director or an embalmer	\$325
2. Funeral service establishment license	\$600
3. Surface transportation and removal service registration	\$325
4. Courtesy card	\$325

5. Crematory	\$250
6. Waiver of full-time manager requirement	\$150
B. The following fees shall apply for renewal of licensure or registration:	
1. License to practice funeral service or as a funeral director or an embalmer	\$225
2. Funeral service establishment license	\$400
3. Surface transportation and removal service registration	\$300
4. Courtesy card	\$300
5. Crematory	\$200
6. Waiver of full-time manager requirement	\$100
7. Inactive funeral service, funeral director, or embalmer license	\$115
C. The following fees shall apply for late renewal of licensure or registration up to one year following expiration:	
1. License to practice funeral service or as a funeral director or an embalmer	\$75
2. Funeral service establishment license	\$135
3. Surface transportation and removal service registration	\$100
4. Courtesy card	\$100
5. Crematory	\$75
6. Waiver of full-time manager requirement	\$35
7. Inactive funeral service, funeral director, or embalmer license	\$40
D. The following fees shall apply for reinstatement of licensure or registration:	
1. License to practice funeral service or as a funeral director or an embalmer	\$400
2. Establishment license	\$635
3. Surface transportation and removal service registration	\$425
4. Courtesy card	\$425
5. Crematory	\$275
6. Reinstatement following suspension	\$1,000
7. Reinstatement following revocation	\$2,000
E. Other fees.	
1. Change of manager or establishment name	\$100
2. Verification of license or registration to another state	\$50
3. Duplicate license, registration, or courtesy card	\$25
4. Duplicate wall certificates	\$60
5. Change of ownership	\$100
6. Nonroutine reinspection (i.e., structural change to preparation room, change of location or ownership)	\$400
F. Fees for approval of continuing education providers.	
1. Application or renewal for continuing education provider	\$400
2. Late renewal of continuing education provider approval	\$100

3. Review of additional courses not included on initial or renewal application \$300
(per application for review of additional courses not per individual course)

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 3.1, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 4, eff. December 9, 1998; Volume 16, Issue 7, eff. January 19, 2000; Volume 19, Issue 19, eff. July 2, 2003; Volume 20, Issue 8, eff. January 28, 2004; Volume 23, Issue 7, eff. January 10, 2007; Volume 31, Issue 8, eff. January 14, 2015; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-20-110. Additional fee information.

- A. There shall be a handling fee of \$50 for returned checks or dishonored credit cards or debit cards.
- B. Fees shall not be refunded once submitted.
- C. The fee for the Virginia State Board Examination shall be paid directly to the examination service contracted by the board for its administration.

Statutory Authority

§ 54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 3.5, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 22, Issue 12, eff. March 22, 2006; Volume 36, Issue 11, eff. March 5, 2020.

Part II. Renewals and Reinstatement

18VAC65-20-120. Expiration dates.

- A. A funeral service establishment license, crematory registration, or surface transportation and removal service registration shall expire on March 31 of each calendar year.
- B. The funeral service license, funeral director license, or embalmer license shall expire on March 31 of each calendar year.
- C. Courtesy cards expire on March 31 of each calendar year.

Statutory Authority

§§ 54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 4.1, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 16, Issue 7, eff. January 19, 2000; Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008.

18VAC65-20-130. Renewal of license; registration.

A. A person, establishment, crematory, courtesy card holder, or surface transportation and removal service that desires to renew its license or registration for the next year shall, not later than the expiration date as provided in 18VAC65-20-120, submit the renewal form and applicable fee.

1. In order to renew an active funeral service, funeral director, or embalmer license, a licensee shall be required to comply with continuing competency requirements set forth in 18VAC65-20-151.

2. The board shall not renew a license for any licensee who fails to attest to compliance with continuing competency requirements on the renewal form.

3. In order to renew a courtesy card, the courtesy card holder shall provide documentation of current, unrestricted licensure for funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming from the licensing authority in the states in which the courtesy card holder is licensed to practice.

B. A person who or entity that desires to renew an expired license for up to one year following expiration shall comply with requirements of subsection A of this section and also submit the applicable fee for late renewal.

C. A person who or entity that fails to renew a license, registration, or courtesy card by the expiration dates prescribed in 18VAC65-20-120 shall be deemed to have an invalid license, registration, or courtesy card and continued practice may subject the licensee to disciplinary action by the board.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 4.2, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 16, Issue 7, eff. January 19, 2000; Volume 19, Issue 19, eff. July 2, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 7, eff. January 10, 2007; Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008; Volume 26, Issue 3, eff. November 11, 2009; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-20-140. Reinstatement of expired license or registration.

A. The board may consider reinstatement of an expired license or registration that has not been renewed within one year of expiration for up to three years following expiration. An application

request for reinstatement shall be submitted to the board and shall include payment of the reinstatement fee prescribed in 18VAC65-20-70.

B. If the Virginia license of a funeral service licensee, a funeral director, or an embalmer is lapsed three years or less and the applicant is seeking reinstatement, the applicant shall provide evidence of having completing the number of continuing competency hours required for the period in which the license has been lapsed.

C. When a license is not reinstated within three years of its expiration date, an applicant shall reapply for licensure and pass the state examination.

Statutory Authority

§54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 4.3, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 19, Issue 19, eff. July 2, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 7, eff. January 10, 2007; Volume 26, Issue 3, eff. November 11, 2009; Volume 39, Issue 6, eff. December 7, 2022.

18VAC65-20-151. Continued competency requirements for renewal of an active license.

A. Funeral service licensees, funeral directors, or embalmers shall be required to have completed a minimum of five hours per year of continuing education offered by a board-approved sponsor for licensure renewal in courses that emphasize the ethics, standards of practice, preneed contracts and funding, or federal or state laws and regulations governing the profession of funeral service.

1. One hour per year shall cover compliance with laws and regulations governing the profession or preneed funeral arrangements. At least one hour of continuing education in preneed funeral arrangements must be completed every three years. The one-hour requirement on compliance with laws and regulations may be met once every two years by attendance at a meeting of the board or at a committee of the board or an informal conference or formal hearing.

2. One hour of the five hours required for annual renewal may be satisfied through delivery of professional services, without compensation, to low-income individuals receiving health services through a local health department or a free clinic organized in whole or primarily for the delivery of those services. One hour of continuing education may be credited for one hour of providing such volunteer services, as documented by the health department or free clinic. For the purposes of continuing education credit for volunteer service, an approved sponsor shall be a local health department or free clinic.

B. Courses must be directly related to the scope of practice of funeral service. Courses for which the principal purpose is to promote, sell, or offer goods, products, or services to funeral homes are not acceptable for the purpose of credit toward renewal.

C. The board may grant an extension for good cause of up to one year for the completion of continuing education requirements upon written request from the licensee prior to the renewal date. Such extension shall not relieve the licensee of the continuing education requirement.

D. The board may grant an exemption for all or part of the continuing education requirements for one renewal cycle due to circumstances determined by the board to be beyond the control of the licensee.

E. A licensee shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements for the first renewal following the date of initial licensure by examination in Virginia.

Statutory Authority

§54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 19, eff. July 2, 2003; amended, Virginia Register Volume 24, Issue 22, eff. August 6, 2008; Volume 28, Issue 26, eff. September 26, 2012; Volume 33, Issue 11, eff. March 9, 2017; Volume 35, Issue 5, eff. November 28, 2018; Volume 39, Issue 6, eff. December 7, 2022.

18VAC65-20-152. Continuing education providers.

A. Unless disqualified by action of the board, courses offered by the following providers are approved for continuing education credit:

1. Local, state, or federal government agencies;
2. Regionally accredited colleges and universities; or
3. Board-recognized national, regional, state, and local associations or organizations as follows:
 - a. National Funeral Directors Association and state chapters;
 - b. National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association and state chapters;
 - c. Association of Independent Funeral Homes of Virginia;
 - d. Cremation Association of North America;
 - e. American Board of Funeral Service Education;
 - f. International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards;
 - g. Virginia Morticians Association; and
 - h. Other similar associations or organizations as approved by action of the board.

B. Course providers not listed in subsection A of this section may apply for approval by the board as continuing education providers.

1. To be considered for board approval, a continuing education provider shall submit 60 days

prior to offering a continuing education course:

- a. Documentation of an instructional plan and course objectives for the continuing education course that meets the criteria set forth in 18VAC65-20-151 B;
- b. A syllabus of the course to be offered with the credentials of the course instructors, a description of each session, including number of continuing education hours; and
- c. The continuing education provider fee set forth under 18VAC65-20-70.

2. Board approval of continuing education providers under this subsection shall expire on July 1 of each year and may be renewed upon resubmission of documentation on courses and instructors and the provider fee as required by the board.

3. Renewed approval of a continuing education provider may be granted without submission of an additional course review fee if the provider submits a statement that courses and instructors offered for the coming year will not change from the previous year. If there will be additions or alterations to the continuing education offerings of a provider, resubmission of course documentation and an additional course review fee is required.

4. If additional courses are submitted for board approval beyond those courses submitted with an initial or renewal application, the continuing education provider shall remit the fee for review under 18VAC65-20-70.

C. Continuing education providers approved under subsection A or B of this section shall:

1. Maintain and provide to the board upon request documentation of the course titles and objectives and of licensee attendance and completion of courses for a period of two years;
2. Monitor attendance at classroom or similar educational experiences for compliance with law and regulations; and
3. Provide a certificate of completion for licensees who successfully complete a course.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 19, eff. July 2, 2003; amended, Virginia Register Volume 26, Issue 26, eff. September 29, 2010; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-20-153. Documenting compliance with continuing education requirements.

A. All licensees with active status are required to maintain original documentation of continuing education for a period of three years after the corresponding annual renewal period.

B. After the end of each renewal period, the board may conduct a random audit of licensees to verify compliance with the requirement for that renewal period.

C. Upon request, a licensee shall provide documentation within 14 days as follows:

1. Official transcripts showing credit hours earned from an accredited institution; or
2. Certificates of completion from approved providers.

D. Compliance with continuing education requirements, including the subject and purpose of the courses as prescribed in 18VAC65-20-151 B, the maintenance of records, and the relevance of the courses to the category of licensure, is the responsibility of the licensee. The board may request additional information if such compliance is not clear from the transcripts or certificates.

E. Continuing education hours required by disciplinary order shall not be used to satisfy renewal requirements.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 19, eff. July 2, 2003; amended, Virginia Register Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021; Volume 40, Issue 26, eff. September 26, 2024.

18VAC65-20-154. Inactive license.

A. A funeral service licensee, a funeral director, or an embalmer who holds a current, unrestricted license in Virginia shall, upon a request for inactive status on the renewal application and submission of the required renewal fee, be issued an inactive license.

1. An inactive licensee shall not be entitled to perform any act requiring a license to practice funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming in Virginia.
2. The holder of an inactive license shall not be required to meet continuing education requirements, except as may be required for reactivation in subsection B of this section.

B. A funeral service licensee, a funeral director, or an embalmer who holds an inactive license may reactivate his license by:

1. Paying the difference between the renewal fee for an inactive license and that of an active license for the year in which the license is being reactivated; and
2. Providing proof of completion of the number of continuing competency hours required for the period in which the license has been inactive, not to exceed three years.

Statutory Authority

§54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 19, eff. July 2, 2003; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 7, eff. January 10, 2007; Volume 31, Issue 8, eff. January 14, 2015; Volume 39,

Part III. Requirements for Licensure

18VAC65-20-170. Requirements for an establishment license.

- A. No person shall maintain, manage, or operate a funeral service establishment in the Commonwealth, unless such establishment holds a license issued by the board. The name of the funeral service licensee or licensed funeral director designated by the ownership to be manager of record for the establishment shall be included on the license.
- B. Except as provided in § 54.1-2810 of the Code of Virginia, every funeral service establishment and every branch or chapel of such establishment, regardless of how owned, shall have a separate manager of record who has responsibility for the establishment as prescribed in 18VAC65-20-171. The owner of the establishment shall not abridge the authority of the manager of record relating to compliance with the laws governing the practice of funeral services and regulations of the board.
- C. At least 30 days prior to opening an establishment, an owner or licensed manager seeking an establishment license shall submit simultaneously a completed application, any additional documentation as may be required by the board to determine eligibility, and the applicable fee. An incomplete package will be returned to the licensee. A license shall not be issued until an inspection of the establishment has been completed and approved.
- D. Within 30 days following a change of ownership, the owner or licensed manager shall request a reinspection of the establishment, submit an application for a new establishment license with documentation that identifies the new owner, and pay the licensure and reinspection fees as required by 18VAC65-20-70. Reinspection of the establishment may occur on a schedule determined by the board, but shall occur no later than one year from the date of the change.
- E. The application for licensure of a branch or chapel shall specify the name of the main establishment and contain an attestation of the affiliation of the branch or chapel and the main establishment.
- F. In the event of an emergency requiring the evacuation or discontinued use of a funeral establishment, the impacted establishment may be approved by the board to continue operations out of another licensed funeral establishment for a period of no more than 60 days. The impacted establishment may request an extension of emergency operations for an additional 30 days upon good cause shown. In requesting approval for conducting emergency operations under this section, the impacted funeral establishment shall submit documentation that identifies the manager of record for both the impacted establishment and establishment for emergency operations and any agreement for emergency usage.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 5.2, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 20, Issue 8, eff. January 28, 2004; Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008; Volume 27, Issue 10, eff. March 3, 2011; Volume 29, Issue 25, eff. September 26, 2013; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-20-171. Responsibilities of the manager of record.

- A. Every funeral establishment shall have a manager of record who is employed full time by and in charge of the establishment.
- B. The manager shall be fully accountable for the operation of the establishment as it pertains to the laws and regulations governing the practice of funeral services, to include:
1. Maintenance of the facility within standards established in this chapter;
 2. Retention of reports and documents as prescribed by the board in 18VAC65-20-700 during the period in which he serves as manager of record;
 3. Reporting to the board of any changes in information as required by 18VAC65-20-60; and
 4. Correcting or seeking corrections of any deficiencies identified during the course of an inspection of the establishment.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008; amended, Virginia Register Volume 29, Issue 25, eff. September 26, 2013; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-20-231. Requirements for a funeral director license by examination.

- A. To qualify for licensure as a funeral director, a person shall:
1. Be at least 18 years of age and hold a high school diploma or its equivalent;
 2. Have completed a funeral service or funeral directing internship as prescribed by the board in regulation;
 3. Have graduated from a school of mortuary science or funeral service accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, Incorporated or have completed an associate's degree or its equivalent, which consists of at least 60 credit hours of coursework, of which at least 30 hours shall be from a funeral directing program approved by the board;
 4. Have successfully completed coursework in the area of pathology as approved by the board;
 5. Have passed the National Board Examination in Arts or State Board Examination in Arts of the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards; and
 6. Have passed the Virginia State Board Examination on the laws, rules, and regulations for

funeral practice.

B. Applicants shall submit school transcripts and National Board Examination or State Board Examination scores as part of an application package, including the required fee and any additional documentation as may be required to determine eligibility.

C. The board, in its discretion, may license an individual convicted of a felony if such individual has successfully fulfilled all conditions of sentencing, been pardoned, or has had his civil rights restored. The board may refuse to license an individual who has a criminal or disciplinary proceeding pending against him in any jurisdiction in the United States.

Statutory Authority

§54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 39, Issue 6, eff. December 7, 2022.

18VAC65-20-232. Requirements for an embalmer license by examination.

A. To qualify for licensure as an embalmer, a person shall:

1. Be at least 18 years of age and hold a high school diploma or its equivalent;
2. Have completed a funeral service or an embalming internship as prescribed by the board in regulation;
3. Have graduated from a school of mortuary science or funeral service accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, Incorporated or have completed an embalming program approved by the board;
4. Have passed the National Board Examination in Sciences or State Board Examination in Sciences of the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards; and
5. Have passed the Virginia State Board Examination on the laws, rules, and regulations for funeral practice.

B. Applicants shall submit school transcripts and National Board Examination or State Board Examination scores as part of an application package, including the required fee and any additional documentation as may be required to determine eligibility.

C. The board, in its discretion, may license an individual convicted of a felony if such individual has successfully fulfilled all conditions of sentencing, been pardoned, or has had his civil rights restored. The board may refuse to license an individual who has a criminal or disciplinary proceeding pending against him in any jurisdiction in the United States.

Statutory Authority

§54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 39, Issue 6, eff. December 7, 2022.

18VAC65-20-235. Approval of educational programs.

All applicants for licensure as a funeral service licensee are required to have graduated from a funeral service program offered by a school of mortuary science or funeral service accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, Incorporated.

Statutory Authority

§54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 39, Issue 6, eff. December 7, 2022.

18VAC65-20-236. Requirements for students assisting with embalming.

In accordance with § 54.1-2805 of the Code of Virginia, a student who is duly enrolled in a mortuary education program in the Commonwealth and who is not registered with the board as a funeral intern may assist in embalming in a funeral service establishment provided the following requirements are met:

1. The funeral establishment holds a current, unrestricted license issued by the board;
2. The funeral establishment and funeral service licensee or embalmer providing student supervision meet the accreditation standards of the American Board of Funeral Service Education and the Commission on Accreditation for off-campus embalming instruction;
3. Students shall receive instruction and shall observe embalming of a dead human body prior to assisting with an embalming in a funeral service establishment and shall assist with embalming in conjunction with an embalming laboratory course;
4. A funeral service licensee or embalmer may supervise up to three students under his immediate supervision, which shall mean the supervisor is physically and continuously present in the preparation room with the students to supervise each task to be performed;
5. A funeral service establishment shall include on the form granting permission to embalm information disclosing that the establishment is a training facility for mortuary education students and that a student may be assisting the licensee with embalming; and
6. The embalming report shall include the names of students assisting with an embalming and shall be signed by the supervisor.

Statutory Authority

§§ 54.1-2400 and 54.1-2805 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 35, Issue 10, eff. February 21, 2019.

18VAC65-20-240. Requirements for funeral service licensure by examination.

A. Application requirements. Applicants shall submit official mortuary school transcripts and national examination board scores as part of an application package, including the required fee and any additional documentation as may be required to determine eligibility.

B. National examination requirements. Prior to applying for licensure by examination, every applicant shall pass the National Board Examination of the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards.

C. State examination requirements. All applicants shall pass the Virginia State Board Examination.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 5.9, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008; Volume 26, Issue 3, eff. November 11, 2009; Volume 26, Issue 18, eff. June 9, 2010; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-20-350. Requirements for licensure by reciprocity or endorsement.

A. Licenses for the practice of funeral service, funeral directing, embalming, or an equivalent license issued by other states, territories, or the District of Columbia may be recognized by the board and the holder of such license may be granted a license to practice funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming within the Commonwealth.

Licenses may be granted to applicants by the board on a case-by-case basis if the applicant holds a valid license for the practice of funeral service, funeral directing, embalming, or an equivalent license in another state, territory, or the District of Columbia and possesses credentials that are substantially similar to or more stringent than required by the Commonwealth for initial licensure at the time the applicant was initially licensed.

B. An applicant for licensure by reciprocity or endorsement shall pass the Virginia State Board Examination.

Statutory Authority

§54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 5.20, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 20, Issue 8, eff. January 28, 2004; Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008; Volume 39, Issue 6, eff. December 7, 2022.

Part IV. Registration

18VAC65-20-400. Registration of surface transportation and removal services.

All persons applying to own or operate a surface transportation and removal service, according to requirements of § 54.1-2819 of the Code of Virginia, shall submit an application package for registration which shall include:

1. A completed and signed application;
2. The fee prescribed in 18VAC65-20-70 A 3;
3. Additional documentation as may be required by the board to determine eligibility of the applicant, including evidence of training of the service manager and staff in compliance with standards of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for universal precautions and bloodborne pathogens, and proof of bonding or liability insurance coverage related to the operation of the service; and
4. The name of the manager for the service.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 7.1, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 20, Issue 8, eff. January 28, 2004; Volume 29, Issue 25, eff. September 26, 2013; Volume 31, Issue 26, eff. September 23, 2015; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-20-420. Misrepresentation.

A person employed or operating a surface transportation and removal service shall not in any manner misrepresent himself to the public as being an official of any local jurisdiction, the Commonwealth, federal, or any other governmental body unless granted such authority. This shall include the name and title of the company or service, uniforms, equipment, vehicles, and any other instruments used or proffered by the services or its agents.

Statutory Authority

§§ 54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 7.3, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008.

18VAC65-20-435. Registration of crematories.

A. At least 30 days prior to opening a crematory, any person intending to own or operate a

crematory shall apply for registration with the board by submitting a completed application and fee as prescribed in 18VAC65-20-70. The name of the individual designated by the ownership to be the crematory manager shall be included on the application. The owner of the crematory shall not abridge the authority of the crematory manager relating to compliance with the laws governing the practice of funeral services and regulations of the board. The designated crematory manager may be the manager of record of a funeral establishment colocated on the same premises.

B. Every crematory, regardless of how owned, shall have a manager who has (i) achieved certification by the Cremation Association of North America (CANA); the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association (ICCFA); or other certification recognized by the board and (ii) received training in compliance with standards of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) for universal precautions and bloodborne pathogens.

C. The manager shall be fully accountable for the operation of the crematory as it pertains to the laws and regulations governing the practice of funeral services, to include but not be limited to:

1. Maintenance of the facility within standards established in this chapter;
2. Retention of reports and documents as prescribed by the board in 18VAC65-20-436 during the period in which he serves as crematory manager; and
3. Reporting to the board of any changes in information as required by 18VAC65-20-60.

D. All persons who operate the retort in a crematory shall have certification by the Cremation Association of North America (CANA); the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association (ICCFA); or other certification recognized by the board. Persons receiving training toward certification to operate a retort shall be allowed to work under the supervision of an operator who holds certification for a period not to exceed six months.

E. A crematory providing cremation services directly to the public shall also be licensed as a funeral service establishment or shall be a branch of a licensed establishment.

F. When a crematory application is pending and the conduct of a cremation is necessary to ensure the proper function of retort equipment, the board may authorize the crematory to conduct a test cremation prior to registration. Once the crematory equipment is deemed functional and an initial crematory inspection is completed, the board may issue the crematory a registration to operate.

G. The board may take disciplinary action against a crematory registration for a violation of § 54.1-2818.1 of the Code of Virginia or for the inappropriate handling of dead human bodies or remains.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 16, Issue 7, eff. January 19, 2000; amended, Virginia

Register Volume 25, Issue 20, eff. July 8, 2009; Volume 27, Issue 10, eff. March 3, 2011; Volume 29, Issue 25, eff. September 26, 2013; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-20-436. Standards for registered crematories or funeral establishments relating to cremation.

A. Authorization to cremate.

1. A crematory shall require a cremation authorization form executed in person or electronically in a manner that provides a copy of an original signature in accordance with § 54.1-2818.1 of the Code of Virginia.
2. The cremation authorization form shall include an attestation of visual identification of the deceased from a viewing of the remains or a photograph of the remains signed by the person making the identification. Visual identification may be made by viewing unique identifiers or markings on the remains. The identification attestation shall either be given on the cremation authorization form or on an identification form attached to the cremation authorization form.
3. In the event visual identification is not feasible, a crematory may use other positive identification of the deceased in consultation with law enforcement, a medical examiner, or medical personnel as a prerequisite for cremation pursuant to § 54.1-2818.1 of the Code of Virginia.

B. Standards for cremation. The following standards shall be required for every crematory:

1. Every crematory shall provide evidence at the time of an inspection of a permit to operate issued by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).
2. A crematory shall not knowingly cremate a body with a pacemaker, defibrillator, or other potentially hazardous implant in place.
3. A crematory shall not cremate the human remains of more than one person simultaneously in the same chamber of the retort or cremation unit, unless the crematory has received specific written authorization to do so from the person signing the cremation authorization form.
4. A crematory shall not cremate nonhuman remains in a retort permitted by DEQ for cremation of human remains.
5. Whenever a crematory is unable to cremate the remains within 24 hours upon taking custody thereof, the crematory shall maintain the remains in refrigeration at approximately 40° Fahrenheit or less, unless the remains have been embalmed.

C. Handling of human remains.

1. Human remains shall be transported to a crematory in a cremation container and shall not be removed from the container unless the crematory has been provided with written instructions to the contrary by the person who signed the authorization form. A cremation container shall substantially meet all the following standards:
 - a. Be composed of readily combustible materials suitable for cremation;

- b. Be able to be closed in order to provide complete covering for the human remains;
- c. Be resistant to leakage or spillage; and
- d. Be rigid enough for handling with ease.

2. No crematory shall require that human remains be placed in a casket before cremation nor shall it require that the cremains be placed in a cremation urn, cremation vault, or receptacle designed to permanently encase the cremains after cremation. Cremated remains shall be placed in a plastic bag inside a rigid container provided by the crematory or by the next of kin for return to the funeral establishment or to the next of kin. If cremated remains are placed in a biodegradable container, a biodegradable bag shall be used. If placed in a container designed for scattering, the cremated remains may be placed directly into the container if the next of kin so authorized in writing.

3. The identification of the decedent shall be physically attached to the remains, and appropriate identification placed on the exterior of the cremation container. The crematory operator shall verify the identification on the remains with the identification attached to the cremation container and with the identification attached to the cremation authorization. The crematory operator shall also verify the identification of the cremains and place evidence of such verification in the cremation record.

D. Recordkeeping. A crematory shall maintain the records of cremation for a period of three years from the date of the cremation that indicate the name of the decedent, the date and time of the receipt of the body, and the date and time of the cremation and shall include:

- 1. The cremation authorization form signed by the person authorized by law to dispose of the remains and the form on which the next of kin or the person authorized by § 54.1-2818.1 of the Code of Virginia to make the identification has made a visual identification of the deceased or evidence of positive identification if visual identification is not feasible;
- 2. The permission form from the medical examiner;
- 3. The DEQ permit number of the retort used for the cremation and the name of the retort operator; and
- 4. The form verifying the release of the cremains, including date and time of release, the name of the person and the entity to whom the cremains were released, and the name of the decedent.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 25, Issue 20, eff. July 8, 2009; amended, Virginia Register Volume 27, Issue 18, eff. June 8, 2011; Volume 29, Issue 25, eff. September 26, 2013; Volume 30, Issue 22, eff. July 30, 2014; Volume 32, Issue 6, eff. December 16, 2015; Volume 32, Issue 6, eff. January 15, 2016; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

Part V. Issuance of Courtesy Cards

18VAC65-20-440. Courtesy cards.

A. An out-of-state person applying for a courtesy card pursuant to § 54.1-2801 B of the Code of Virginia shall hold a valid license for funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming in another state, territory, or the District of Columbia.

B. An applicant for a courtesy card shall submit:

1. A completed application and prescribed fee; and
2. Verification of current, unrestricted licensure for funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming from the licensing authorities in the states in which the courtesy card holder is licensed to practice.

C. The holder of a Virginia courtesy card shall only engage in the practice for which he is currently licensed in another jurisdiction. The privilege to practice shall not include the right to establish or engage generally in the business of funeral directing and embalming in Virginia.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 8.1, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 20, Issue 8, eff. January 28, 2004; Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

Part VI. Refusal, Suspension, Revocation, and Disciplinary Action

18VAC65-20-500. Disciplinary action.

In accordance with the provisions of § 54.1-2806 of the Code of Virginia, the following practices are considered unprofessional conduct and may subject the licensee to disciplinary action by the board:

1. Breach of confidence. The unnecessary or unwarranted disclosure of confidences by the funeral licensee.
2. Unfair competition.
 - a. Interference by a funeral service licensee, funeral director, or registered surface transportation and removal service when another has been called to take charge of a dead human body and the caller or agent of the caller has the legal right to the body's disposition.
 - b. Consent by a funeral service licensee or funeral director to take charge of a body unless authorized by the person or his agent having the legal right to disposition.

3. False advertising.

a. No licensee or registrant shall make, publish, disseminate, circulate, or place before the public, or cause directly or indirectly to be made, an advertisement of any sort regarding services or anything so offered to the public that contains any promise, assertion, representation, or statement of fact which is untrue, deceptive, or misleading.

b. The following practices, both written and verbal, shall constitute false, deceptive, or misleading advertisement within the meaning of subdivision 4 of § 54.1-2806 of the Code of Virginia:

(1) Advertising containing inaccurate statements; and

(2) Advertisement that gives a false impression as to ability, care, and cost of conducting a funeral, or that creates an impression of things not likely to be true.

c. The following practices are among those that shall constitute an untrue, deceptive, and misleading representation or statement of fact:

(1) Representing that funeral goods or services will delay the natural decomposition of human remains for a long term or indefinite time; and

(2) Representing that funeral goods have protective features or will protect the body from gravesite substances over or beyond that offered by the written warranty of the manufacturer.

4. Inappropriate handling and storage of dead human bodies, consistent with § 54.1-2811.1 of the Code of Virginia and regulations of the board. Transportation and removal vehicles shall be of such nature as to eliminate exposure of the deceased to the public during transportation. During the transporting of a human body, consideration shall be taken to avoid unnecessary delays or stops during travel.

5. Failure to furnish price information disclosing the cost to the purchaser for each of the specific funeral goods and funeral services used in connection with the disposition of deceased human bodies.

6. Conducting the practice of funeral services, funeral directing, or embalming in such a manner as to constitute a danger to the health, safety, and well-being of the staff or the public.

7. Inability to practice with skill or safety because of physical, mental, or emotional illness, or substance abuse.

8. Failure to register as a supervisor for an intern or failure to provide reports to the board as required by the Code of Virginia and 18VAC65-40-320.

9. Failure to comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including requirements for continuing education.

10. Inappropriate sexual contact between a supervisor and a funeral service intern if the sexual contact is a result of the exploitation of trust, knowledge, or influence derived from the professional relationship or if the contact has had or is likely to have an adverse effect on the

practice of funeral services or on intern training.

11. Conducting activities or performing services that are outside the scope of a licensee's practice or for which the licensee is not trained and individually competent.

Statutory Authority

§54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 10.1, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 19, Issue 19, eff. July 2, 2003; Volume 22, Issue 21, eff. July 26, 2006; Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008; Volume 26, Issue 26, eff. September 29, 2010; Volume 39, Issue 6, eff. December 7, 2022.

Part VII. Standards for Embalming and Refrigeration

18VAC65-20-510. Embalming.

A. In accordance with the provisions of subdivision 26 of § 54.1-2806 and subsection B of § 54.1-2811.1 of the Code of Virginia, express permission by a next of kin for embalming means written authorization to embalm as a specific and separate statement on a document or contract provided by the funeral establishment. Express permission may include direct, verbal authorization to embalm, provided it is followed as soon as possible by a written document or statement signed by the next of kin confirming the verbal authorization to embalm and including the time, date, and name of the person who gave verbal authorization.

B. Every funeral establishment shall record and maintain a separate, identifiable report for each embalming procedure conducted, which shall at a minimum include the following information:

1. The name of the deceased and the date of death;
2. The date and location of the embalming;
3. The name and signature of the embalmer and the Virginia license number of the embalmer;
4. If the embalming was performed by a funeral service intern, the name and signature of the supervisor; and
5. The name of each student and the signature of the supervisor of any mortuary science student who assisted in the embalming.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 11.1, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff.

January 20, 1999; Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008; Volume 35, Issue 7, eff. December 26, 2018; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-20-540. Preparation room requirements.

A. Every funeral service establishment at which embalming of dead human bodies is performed shall have at least one room used exclusively for embalming or preparation of the body.

B. The following are required of the preparation room or rooms:

1. The walls shall extend floor to ceiling;
2. The floor and wall surfaces shall be of a material or covered by a material impervious to water; and
3. The material shall extend from wall to wall with all joints tight and sanitary.

C. All functions connected with embalming shall be performed within the preparation room.

Statutory Authority

§ 54.1-2400 and Chapter 28 (§ 54.1-2800 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 11.4, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999.

18VAC65-20-570. Condition of preparation room.

A. The preparation room or rooms shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition at all times, subject to inspection.

B. Inventories of embalming and preparation materials shall be stored in a container and in a manner that makes them impervious to water and protects them from contamination.

C. Any items or supplies not directly used in an embalming procedure shall not be stored in the preparation room.

Statutory Authority

§ 54.1-2400 and Chapter 28 (§ 54.1-2800 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 11.7, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 20, Issue 8, eff. January 28, 2004; Errata 20:10 VA.R. 1060 January 26, 2004.

18VAC65-20-580. Preparation room equipment.

The preparation room or rooms shall be equipped with:

1. A ventilation system which operates and is appropriate to the size and function of the room;
2. Running hot and cold water;
3. Flush or slop sink connected with public sewer or with septic tank where no public sewer is available;
4. Metal, fiberglass, or porcelain morgue table;
5. Covered waste container;
6. Instruments and apparatus for the embalming process;
7. A means or method for the sterilization or disinfection of reusable instruments by chemical bath or soak; autoclave (steam); or ultraviolet light;
8. Disinfectants and antiseptic solutions;
9. Clean gowns or aprons, preferably impervious to water;
10. Rubber gloves for each embalmer , intern, or student using the room;
11. An electric aspirator or hydroaspirator equipped with a vacuum breaker;
12. An eye wash station that is readily accessible; and
13. A standard first aid kit, that is immediately accessible, either in the preparation room or outside the door to the preparation room.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 11.8, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 20, Issue 8, eff. January 28, 2004; Volume 22, Issue 21, eff. July 26, 2006; Volume 29, Issue 25, eff. September 26, 2013; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-20-581. Refrigeration requirements.

A. If a dead human body is to be in the possession of a funeral establishment or crematory for more than 48 hours from the time the funeral establishment or crematory takes physical possession of the body until embalming, cremation, or burial, the body shall be placed and maintained in refrigeration in a mechanical refrigeration unit suitable for storing human remains in accordance with subsection B of § 54.1-2811.1 of the Code of Virginia.

B. The mechanical refrigeration unit may be located in the funeral establishment or crematory, or the funeral establishment or crematory may enter into an agreement or contract with another funeral establishment, crematory, or other licensed entity for refrigeration in a mechanical refrigeration unit.

C. Evidence of compliance with the requirement for refrigeration shall be maintained as a log entry or other documentation indicating times of placement in and removal of a body from refrigeration.

Statutory Authority

§§ 54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 35 Issue 7, eff. December 26, 2018.

18VAC65-20-590. Disposal of waste materials.

Disposal of all waste materials shall be in conformity with local, state, and federal law and regulations to avoid contagion and the possible spread of disease. Upon inspection, the establishment shall provide evidence of compliance, such as a copy of a contract with a medical waste disposal company.

Statutory Authority

§§ 54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 11.9, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 20, Issue 8, eff. January 28, 2004; Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008.

Part VIII. Pricing Standards and Forms

18VAC65-20-630. Disclosures.

Funeral licensees shall make all required disclosures and provide accurate information from price lists pursuant to the rules of the Federal Trade Commission. Price lists shall comply with requirements of the FTC and shall contain the information included in:

APPENDIX I - General Price List;

APPENDIX II - Casket Price List, Outer Burial Container Price List; and

APPENDIX III - Itemized Statement of Funeral Goods and Services Selected.

Statutory Authority

§54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 12.2, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 27, Issue 10, eff. March 3, 2011; Volume 39, Issue 6, eff. December 7,

2022.

18VAC65-20-700. Retention of documents.

A. The following retention schedule shall apply:

1. Price lists shall be retained for three years after the date on which they are no longer effective;
2. Itemized statements shall be retained for three years from the date on which the arrangements were made; and
3. Embalming reports shall be retained at the location of the embalming for three years after the date of the embalming.

B. The manager of record shall be responsible for retention and maintenance of all required documents.

C. Documents shall be maintained on the premises of the funeral establishment and made available for inspection.

D. In instances where the funeral establishment is sold, documents shall be transferred to the new owner, unless the existing firm is relocating to a new facility. The new owner shall retain transferred documents in accordance with the provisions of this section. When transferred documents include preneed contracts, the documents shall be retained and maintained in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Virginia and regulations of the board.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 13.1, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 20, Issue 8, eff. January 28, 2004; Volume 24, Issue 24, eff. September 3, 2008; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

Regulations for Preneed Funeral Planning (18VAC65-30-10 et seq.)

Part I. General Information

18VAC65-30-10. Definitions.

In addition to those defined in § 54.1-2800 of the Code of Virginia, the following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Appointee" means the individual selected by the contract beneficiary to arrange a preneed funeral plan on behalf of the contract beneficiary.

"Cash advance item" means any item of service or merchandise described to a purchaser as a "cash advance," "accommodation," "cash disbursement," or similar term. A cash advance item is also any item obtained from a third party and paid for by the funeral provider on the behalf of the contract buyer. Cash advance items may include cemetery or crematory services, pallbearers, public transportation, clergy honoraria, flowers, musicians or singers, nurses, obituary notices, gratuities, and death certificates.

"Consideration," "contract price," or "funds" means money, property, or any other thing of value provided to be compensation to a contract seller or contract provider for the funeral services and funeral goods to be performed or furnished under a preneed funeral contract. Consideration does not include late payment penalties and payments required to be made to a governmental agency at the time the contract is entered into.

"Contract" means a written, preneed funeral contract and all documents pertinent to the terms of the contract under which for consideration paid to a contract seller or a contract provider by or on behalf of a contract buyer prior to the death of the contract beneficiary, a person promises to furnish, make available, or provide funeral services or funeral goods after the death of a contract beneficiary.

"Contract beneficiary" means the individual for whom the funeral services and supplies are being arranged.

"Contract buyer" means the purchaser of the preneed contract.

"Contract provider" means the funeral establishment designated by the contract buyer and contracting with the contract buyer to provide for funeral services and supplies in the preneed funeral contract.

"Contract seller" means the funeral service licensee or funeral director who makes the preneed arrangements with the contract buyer for the funeral service and who makes the financial arrangements for the service and the goods and supplies to be provided.

"Designee" means the individual designated to make arrangements for burial or final disposition of the remains pursuant to § 54.1-2825 of the Code of Virginia.

"Funding source" means the trust agreement, insurance policy, annuity, personal property, or real estate used to fund the preneed plan.

"Funeral supplies and services" means the items of merchandise sold or offered for sale or lease to consumers that will be used in connection with a funeral or an alternative to a funeral or final disposition of human remains including caskets, combination units, and catafalques. Funeral goods does not mean land or interests in land, crypts, lawn crypts, mausoleum crypts, or niches that are sold by a cemetery that complies with Chapter 23.1 (§ 54.1-2310 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia. In addition, "funeral supplies and services" does not mean cemetery burial vaults or other outside containers, markers, monuments, urns, and merchandise items used for the purpose of memorializing a decedent and placed on or in proximity to a place of interment or entombment of a casket, catafalque, or vault or to a place of inurnment that are sold by a cemetery operating in accordance with Chapter 23.1 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia.

"Guaranteed contract price" means (i) the amount paid by the contract buyer on a preneed funeral contract, and income derived from that amount, or (ii) the amount paid by a contract buyer for a life insurance policy or annuity as the funding source and its increasing death benefit. These amounts shall be accepted as payment in full for the preselected funeral goods and services.

"Income" means the amount of gain received in a period of time from investment of consideration paid for a preneed contract.

"Nonguaranteed contract price" means the costs of items on a preneed funeral contract that are not fixed for the specified funeral goods or funeral services selected and nonguaranteed costs may increase from the date of the contract to the death of the contract beneficiary and the family or estate will be responsible for paying at the time of need for the services and supplies that were nonguaranteed. Cash advance items are not guaranteed.

Statutory Authority

§54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 1.1, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 19, Issue 10, eff. February 26, 2003; Volume 39, Issue 6, eff. December 7, 2022.

Part II. Sale of Preneed Plans

18VAC65-30-50. Solicitation.

A. In accordance with provisions of § 54.1-2806 of the Code of Virginia, a licensee shall not initiate any preneed solicitation using in-person communication by the licensee or his agents, assistants, or employees.

B. After a request to discuss preneed planning is initiated by the contract buyer or interested

consumer, any contact and in-person communication shall take place only with a funeral service licensee or a licensed funeral director. Funeral interns shall not engage in preneed planning or sales.

Statutory Authority

§54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 2.2, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 20, Issue 21, eff. July 28, 2004; Volume 39, Issue 6, eff. December 7, 2022.

Part III. Operational Responsibilities

18VAC65-30-60. Records; general.

- A. A licensee shall keep accurate accounts, books, and records of all transactions required by this chapter.
- B. Preneed contracts and reporting documents shall be retained on the premises of the establishment for three years after the death of the contract beneficiary.
- C. A funeral home shall keep on file a written verification from the insurance company that the insurance or annuity contract complies with § 54.1-2820 C of the Code of Virginia.
- D. All preneed records shall be available for inspection by the Department of Health Professions.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 3.1, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 29, Issue 6, eff. December 19, 2012; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-30-70. Record reporting.

- A. A contract provider shall keep a chronological or an alphabetical listing of all preneed contracts. The listing shall include the following:
 - 1. Name of contract buyer;
 - 2. Name of contract beneficiary;
 - 3. Date of contract;
 - 4. How contract was funded, where the contract is funded, and where the funds are maintained;

5. Whether up to 10% of funds are retained by the contract provider for contracts funded through trust; and

6. Whether funeral goods and supplies are stored for the contract buyer.

B. A contract provider that discontinues its business operations, whether by closure or change of ownership, shall notify the board and each existing contract buyer in writing in accordance with the following provisions:

1. A contract provider that discontinues its business operations by closure shall:

a. Provide to the board a current list of preneed contracts at the time of closure; and

b. Notify each existing contract buyer in writing prior to closure and include a statement in the notification regarding the contract buyer's right to change the contract provider at any time prior to at-need.

2. If a contract provider changes ownership and the new establishment intends to honor existing contracts, the new establishment shall provide notice of the change of ownership and intent to honor existing contracts in a publication of general circulation in the locality where the establishment is located within 90 days after the change in ownership.

3. If a contract provider changes ownership and the new establishment does not intend to honor existing contracts, notification shall be provided to each existing contract buyer in writing within 90 days after the change in ownership. The notice shall include a statement regarding the contract buyer's right to change the contract provider at any time prior to at-need.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 3.2, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 29, Issue 25, eff. September 26, 2013; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

Part IV. Contract

18VAC65-30-80. Content and format.

A. A person residing or doing business within the Commonwealth shall not make, either directly or indirectly by any means, a preneed contract unless the contract buyer has been given in writing all information and disclosures required by law and regulation.

B. In addition to requirements of § 54.1-2820 of the Code of Virginia, the contract shall contain the following:

1. The date of the contract;

2. Whether or not the price of the supplies and services purchased is guaranteed;

3. The appointee agreement when applicable; and

4. Signatures of the contract seller and the contract buyer.

C. If an appointee agreement has been signed, it shall be attached to the preneed contract as a valid part of the contract.

Statutory Authority

§§ 54.1-2400, 54.1-2803, and 54.1-2820 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 4.1, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 19, Issue 10, eff. February 26, 2003.

Part V. Disclosures

18VAC65-30-90. Disclosures.

A. At the time of the inquiry, licensees shall furnish to each person inquiring about preneed arrangements a copy of the general price list and preneed disclosure questions and answers.

B. Immediately upon concluding the arrangement conference, licensees shall furnish to each person who makes a preneed arrangement a copy of the preneed contract and funding contract. Licensees shall receive a written acknowledgment from the contract buyer that the buyer has received a copy of the general price list and preneed disclosure questions and answers.

C. An itemized statement of funeral goods and services shall be given at the time of need even if the arrangements were made through a preneed contract.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 5.1, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

Part VI. Funding

18VAC65-30-100. Finance charges prohibited.

A licensee shall not charge finance charges on a preneed arrangement.

Statutory Authority

§§ 54.1-2400, 54.1-2803(10) and 54.1-2820 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 6.1, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995.

18VAC65-30-110. Cancellation or transfer of contract.

A. Any person who makes payment under this contract may terminate the agreement at any time prior to the time for which the services or supplies are furnished.

B. If the contract buyer terminates the contract within 30 days of the execution of the contract, the contract buyer shall be refunded all consideration paid or delivered and any interest or income accrued on it.

C. If the contract buyer uses a revocable trust as the funding source and terminates the contract after 30 days of the execution of the contract, the contract buyer shall be refunded:

1. All consideration paid or delivered on nonguaranteed items;
2. At least 90% of all consideration paid for guaranteed items; and
3. All interest or income accrued on it.

D. If the contract buyer uses an irrevocable trust as the funding source, the contract buyer is not able to cancel the trust after 30 days following its execution except in accordance with §§ 64.2-729 and 64.2-730 of the Code of Virginia.

E. The contract buyer shall have the right to change the contract provider and the trustee at any time prior to the furnishing of the services or supplies contracted for under the preneed contract.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 6.2, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 29, Issue 3, eff. November 23, 2012; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

18VAC65-30-120. Escrow account.

Within five banking days after the day of receipt of any money from the contract buyer and until the time the money is invested in a trust, life insurance, or annuity policy, the contract seller or the contract provider shall deposit the money into an escrow account in a bank or savings institution approved to do business in the Commonwealth.

Statutory Authority

§§ 54.1-2400, 54.1-2803 and 54.1-2820 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 6.3, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January

20, 1999.

18VAC65-30-130. Real estate.

When the consideration consists in whole or in part of any real estate, the following shall occur:

1. The preneed contract shall be recorded as an attachment to the deed whereby the real estate is conveyed; and
2. The deed shall be recorded in the clerk's office in the circuit court of the city or county in which the real estate being conveyed is located.

Statutory Authority

§§ 54.1-2400, 54.1-2803(10) and 54.1-2820 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 6.4, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995.

18VAC65-30-140. Personal property.

When the consideration consists in whole or in part of any personal property, the following shall occur:

1. Personal property shall be transferred by:
 - a. Actual delivery of the personal property; or
 - b. Transfer of the title to the personal property.
2. Within 30 days of receiving the personal property or the title to the personal property, the licensee or person delivering the property shall:
 - a. Execute a written declaration of trust setting forth the terms, conditions, and considerations upon which the personal property is delivered; and
 - b. Record the trust agreement in the clerk's office of the circuit court of the locality in which the person delivering the property is living; or
 - c. Record the preneed contract in the clerk's office of the circuit court of the locality in which the person delivering the property or trust agreement is living provided that the preneed contract sets forth the terms, conditions, and considerations of the trust.

Statutory Authority

§§ 54.1-2400, 54.1-2803 and 54.1-2820 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 6.5, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999.

18VAC65-30-170. Trust accounts.

If funds are to be trusted, the trust account is to be established according to provisions of §§ 54.1-2822 and 54.1-2824 of the Code of Virginia and the following information shall be disclosed in writing to the contract buyer:

1. The amount to be trusted;
2. The name of the trustee;
3. The disposition of the interest;
4. The fees, expenses, and taxes which may be deducted from the interest;
5. Whether up to 10% is retained by the contract provider; and
6. A statement of the contract buyer's responsibility for taxes owed on the interest.

Statutory Authority

§§ 54.1-2400, 54.1-2803 and 54.1-2820 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 6.8, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999.

18VAC65-30-180. Life insurance or annuity.

If a life insurance or annuity policy is used to fund the preneed funeral contract, the contract shall be in compliance with provisions of §§ 38.2-3100.3 and 54.1-2820 C of the Code of Virginia and shall contain the following information:

1. Name of the contract provider;
2. Name and funeral license number of contract seller;
3. Place of employment of contract seller;
4. Name of insurance agent and agent's insurance license number;
5. Insurance agent's employer and insurance company represented by insurance agent; and
6. Identification as to whether the insurance agent is a funeral service licensee and, if so, the funeral service license number.

Statutory Authority

§§ 54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 6.9, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January

20, 1999; Volume 25, Issue 17, eff. July 1, 2009; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

Part VII. Supplies and Services

18VAC65-30-200. Supplies and services.

A. If the contract seller will not be responsible for furnishing the supplies and services to the contract buyer, the contract seller shall attach to the preneed funeral contract a copy of the contract seller's agreement with the contract provider.

B. If any funeral supplies are sold and delivered to the contract provider prior to the death of the contract beneficiary, the risk of loss or damage shall be upon the contract provider during such period of storage.

C. If the particular supplies and services specified in the contract are unavailable at the time of delivery, the contract provider shall be required to furnish supplies and services similar in style and at least equal in quality of material and workmanship. The representative of the deceased shall have the right to choose the supplies or services to be substituted.

Statutory Authority

§§ 54.1-2400, 54.1-2803 and 54.1-2820 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 8.1, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999.

18VAC65-30-210. (Repealed.)

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-3 § 9.1, eff. March 1, 1991; amended, Virginia Register Volume 9, Issue 22, eff. August 25, 1993; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; repealed, Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999.

Statutory Authority

Historical Notes

Part VIII. Required Content of Contracts and Disclosures

18VAC65-30-220. Content of preneed contracts.

The following information shall be contained in any contract for preneed funeral planning.

Date: _____

Contract: _____

PRENEED FUNERAL CONTRACT

for

(Name of Recipient of Services)

_____ (Zip)_____

I. SUPPLIES AND SERVICES PURCHASED

If goods and services are guaranteed and your contract is fully paid or funded at the time of your death, no additional cost will incur for your family or estate even though the actual prices of goods and services may increase between the date of this contract and the time of need. (Please see the disclosure document.)

If goods and services are nonguaranteed, your family or estate may incur additional costs for goods and services as the prices for these items may increase from the date of the contract to the time of need.

Cash advance items are not guaranteed. A cash advance item is any item obtained from a third party by the funeral home on your behalf. Cash advance items may include cemetery or crematory services, pall bearers, public transportation, clergy honoraria, flowers, musicians or singers, nurses, obituary notices, gratuities, and death certificates.

Charges are only for those items that you selected or that are required. If we are required by law or by a cemetery or crematory to use an item, we will explain the reasons in writing below. If you selected a funeral that may require embalming, such as a funeral with a viewing, you may have to pay for embalming. You do not have to pay for embalming you did not select if you select arrangements such as a direct cremation or immediate burial.

Guaranteed Services Purchased

I. BASIC SERVICES OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND STAFF \$_____

II. FUNERAL HOME FACILITIES

A. Facilities and Staff for visitation/viewing \$_____

B. Facilities and Staff for funeral ceremony \$_____

C. Facilities and Staff for memorial service \$_____

D. Equipment and Staff for graveside service \$_____

(NOTE TO FUNERAL HOME: If you have additional charges such as facilities and staff for home/church viewing, or a charge for additional staff person or through calculation of manhours, etc., add here as extra items. If you have a charge for equipment for interment, add here.)

III. EMBALMING

A. Normal remains \$_____

B. Autopsy remains \$_____

IV. OTHER PREPARATION OF THE BODY \$_____

(NOTE: List all items that you placed under Other Preparation on your General Price List.)

V. IMMEDIATE BURIAL \$ _____
 VI. DIRECT CREMATION \$ _____
 VII. TRANSFER OF REMAINS TO FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT \$ _____
 VIII. FORWARDING REMAINS TO ANOTHER FUNERAL HOME \$ _____
 IX. RECEIVING REMAINS FROM ANOTHER FUNERAL HOME \$ _____

X. AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT
 A. Hearse \$ _____
 B. Limousine \$ _____

(NOTE: List all others that you placed on General Price List.)

XI. FUNERAL MERCHANDISE
 A. Casket (*describe)

 -
 _____ \$ _____

B. Outer Burial Container (*describe)

 -
 _____ \$ _____

C. List any others
 _____ \$ _____

Supplies Purchased

Clothing \$ _____
 Temporary marker \$ _____
 Acknowledgment cards \$ _____
 Register/attendance books \$ _____
 Memorial folders \$ _____
 Other \$ _____
 SUBTOTAL COSTS OF (GUARANTEED) SUPPLIES PURCHASED: \$ _____

XII. PACKAGE PRICES

(NOTE: List all package prices by name.)

SUBTOTAL COSTS OF (GUARANTEED) SUPPLIES PURCHASED: \$ _____

Nonguaranteed Goods and Services Purchased

The actual prices of goods and services below are NOT GUARANTEED. These items may include obituary notices, death certificates, cemetery fees, flowers, sales tax, etc. The prices are estimated and the estimates will be included in the Grand Total Contract Price. The

differences between the estimated prices below and the actual cost will be settled with your family or estate at the time of need:

SUBTOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS OF NONGUARANTEED ITEMS: \$_____

GRAND TOTAL FOR PRENEED ARRANGEMENTS

1. Total cost of (guaranteed) services purchased \$_____

2. Total cost of (guaranteed) supplies purchased \$_____

3. Total estimated cost of nonguaranteed items \$_____

GRAND TOTAL \$_____

The only warranties, express or implied, granted in connection with the goods sold in this preneed funeral contract, are the express written warranties, if any, extended by the manufacturers thereof. No other warranties and no warranties of MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE are extended by the (funeral home)

GENERAL INFORMATION

In order that the Buyer may understand the relationship of all parties involved in this preneed arrangement and contract, the following is provided:

A. Buyer:

B. Funeral Home Providing Services:

C. Contract seller:

Employed by: (Funeral Home)

Virginia Funeral Director or Funeral Service Licensee License Number:

II. METHOD OF FUNDING

A. Trust.

The following information will be given if a trust is used to fund this agreement:

1. Amount to be trusted:
2. Name of trustee:
3. Disposition of Interest:
4. Fees, expenses, taxes deducted from earned interest:
5. Buyer's responsibility for taxes owned on interest:

B. Insurance or annuity contract.

The following information will be given if an insurance policy or annuity contract is used to fund this agreement:

1. Buyer:
2. Insurance Company:

3. Insurance Agent:

Employed by: (Insurance Company)

Licensed Funeral Director or Funeral Service Licensee in Virginia: ___yes ___no

Funeral Director or Funeral Service Licensee License Number (If Applicable):

Employed by Funeral Home (If Applicable):

4. The life insurance or annuity contract provides that the face amount of any life insurance policy issued to fund a preneed funeral contract shall not be decreased over the life of the life insurance policy except for life insurance policies that have lapsed due to the nonpayment of premiums or have gone to a nonforfeiture option that lowers the face amount as allowed for in the provisions of the policy.

III. CONSUMER INFORMATION

The Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers is authorized by Chapter 28 (§ 54.1-2800 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia to regulate the practice of preneed funeral planning.

Consumer complaints should be directed to:

The Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300

Richmond, Virginia 23233

Telephone Number: (804) 367-4479

Toll Free Number for complaints: 1-800-533-1560

FAX: (804) 527-4413

Website: www.dhp.virginia.gov

IV. DISCLOSURES

The disclosure statements will be available for your review. The General Price List shall be furnished to you by the contract seller. These contain information that you must receive by law and/or the authority of the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers. You are entitled to receive all information in clear and simple language including the language of the funding agreement for this preneed arrangement.

If any law, cemetery, or crematory requires the purchase of any of those items listed in Part I, the requirements will be explained in writing.

By signing this contract, buyer acknowledges availability of and opportunity to read a copy of all of the required documents.

By signing this contract, contract seller acknowledges that the General Price List and the required disclosures have been furnished to the contract buyer.

V. TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

This person who funds this contract through a trust agreement may terminate this preneed contract at any time prior to the furnishing of the services or supplies contracted for:

Within 30 days

If you terminate this preneed contract within 30 days of the date of this contract, you will be refunded all payments of whatever type you have made, plus any interest or income you may have earned.

More than 30 days

If you terminate this preneed contract more than 30 days after the date on this contract, you will be refunded whatever amount was required to be placed in a revocable trust fund, plus any interest or income it has earned.

Any person who funds this contract through a trust fund that is irrevocable or through an insurance/annuity policy or through the transfer of real estate/personal property may not be eligible for a refund.

VI. STATEMENT OF GUARANTEE

By signing this contract, (Funeral Home) _____ agrees to the statement checked below (check one):

_____ Prefinancing guarantees that no additional payment will be required from the family or estate for guaranteed services and supplies provided the Grand Total of these arrangements is paid in full and the interest is allowed to accumulate in your account (see page _____ for Grand Total amount). Payment of the difference will be required for the nonguaranteed estimated items if they increase in price.

_____ The prices for items under supplies and services are not guaranteed.

VII. AGREEMENT

In witness whereof, the Buyer and the Funeral Home have executed this contract, intending its terms to be in accordance with the Code of Virginia and any regulations implementing the Code. By signing this contract you acknowledge that you have been provided access to and the opportunity to read the Disclosure Statements.

(Designee of Funeral Home)

(Buyer)

(Funeral Home)

(Contract Date)

VIII. PENALTIES OR RESTRICTIONS

The (funeral home) _____, has the following penalties or restrictions on the provisions of this contract.

1. (Insert geographic restrictions);
2. (Insert an explanation of the Funeral Home's inability to perform the request(s) of the Buyer);

3. (Insert a description of any other circumstances that apply);

4. (Insert information that if particular goods and services specified in the contract are unavailable at the time of need):

A. The funeral home shall be required to furnish supplies and services similar in style and at least equal in quality of material and workmanship; and

B. The representative of the deceased shall have the right to choose the supplies or services to be substituted.

IX. ADDENDUM TO PRENEED CONTRACT

APPOINTEE AGREEMENT

I appoint _____ of (address) _____ to assist with the preneed arrangements in my behalf. The relationship of my appointee to me is _____.

Contract Beneficiary: _____ Date: _____

I accept the request of (contract beneficiary) _____ to assist with his/her preneed arrangements.

Appointee: _____ Date: _____

The foregoing was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20____

Notary: _____

Date Commission Expires: _____

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 26, Issue 3, eff. November 11, 2009; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021; Volume 38, Issue 23, eff. August 3, 2022.

18VAC65-30-230. Content of disclosure statements.

The following disclosure statements shall be provided as a part of any contract used for preneed funeral planning:

We are required by law and/or the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers to provide access to and the opportunity for you to read the following information to assist you in preplanning. A question and answer format is used for clarity and includes the most commonly asked questions.

PRENEED CONTRACTS

-- Is there more than one type of preneed agreement?

Yes. Guaranteed contracts mean that the costs of certain individual items or the cost of the total package will never be more to your family or estate. Nonguaranteed contracts mean just the opposite. Nonguaranteed contracts mean costs may increase or decrease between the time of the agreement and the time of need. A preneed contract may have both guaranteed and nonguaranteed costs. (See the section entitled "General Funding Information" for more information on guaranteed and nonguaranteed costs.)

Contracts may be funded by insurance/annuity policies, trusts, or transfer of real estate/personal property.

-- What are my protections?

You should take your completed preneed contract home before you sign it and review it with your family or your legal advisor. You have a right to this review before you sign the contract or pay any money.

You should also read carefully the information in this disclosure statement. If you have any questions, contact the seller for more information or contact your legal advisor.

CANCELLATION

-- Can I cancel my preneed agreement if I change my mind? Will I get my money back?

You may cancel payment for supplies or services within 30 days after signing the agreement. If you funded your preneed arrangement through a trust (revocable or irrevocable), the contract seller will refund all the money you have paid plus any interest or income you have earned.

If you funded your preneed arrangement through a revocable trust and you cancel the preneed contract AFTER the 30-day deadline, you will be refunded all of your money on the items that are not guaranteed and 90% of all your money on the items that are guaranteed. You will also receive any interest or income on that amount. A revocable trust is a trust that you can cancel.

There may be a penalty to withdraw money from a revocable trust account which has already been established in your name. If there is, your contract will give you this information. (See the first question under the section entitled "Payment" below.)

If you have funded your preneed arrangement through an irrevocable trust, you will not be able to cancel the trust agreement or receive a refund after 30 days following the signing of the agreement except in accordance with §§ 64.2-729 and 64.2-730 of the Code of Virginia.

If you funded your preneed arrangement through an insurance policy/annuity contract which will be used at the time of your death to purchase the supplies and services you have selected, you will need to pay careful attention to the cancellation terms and conditions of the policy. You may not be eligible for a refund.

PAYMENT

-- What happens to my money after the contract is signed?

Your money will be handled in one of several ways. It may be deposited in a separate trust account in your name. The trust account will list a trustee who will be responsible for handling

your account. The funeral home you have selected as your beneficiary will also be listed. You have the right to change the funeral home and the trustee of your account prior to receiving the supplies and services under the preneed contract.

Your money may be used to purchase a preneed life insurance policy which may be used to pay for your arrangements upon your death. The proceeds of the policy will be assigned to the funeral home of your choice. You may change the funeral home assignment at any time prior to receiving the supplies and services under the preneed contract.

You may decide to choose a life insurance policy or a trust account that requires regular premium payments and not have to make an up-front, lump sum payment.

-- May I pay for goods and services with real estate or personal property?

Yes. When you pay for these supplies and services in whole or in part with any real estate you may own, the preneed contract that you sign will be attached to the deed on the real estate and the deed will be recorded in the clerk's office of the circuit court in the city or county where the real estate is located.

If you pay for goods and services with personal property other than cash or real estate, the contract seller will declare in writing that the property will be placed in a trust until the time of your death and will give you written information on all the terms, conditions, and considerations surrounding the trust. The contract seller will confirm in writing that he has received property.

You may decide not to transfer the title of the personal property to the contract seller of your preneed contract. In this situation, you will have to submit information to the contract seller in writing that you are giving him the property without a title, and describe the property and where it will be kept until the time of your death.

In either case, the written statements will be recorded in the clerk's office of the circuit court of the city or county in which you live. The written statement does not have to be a separate document.

GENERAL FUNDING INFORMATION

-- If the prices of the goods and services are affected by inflation between now and my death, will the funding I choose be adjusted accordingly?

There is a possibility that the funding may fail to keep up with inflation. This could mean that the funding you choose may not have enough value to cover all expenses at the time of need.

-- What happens if my funding is not enough to cover the full cost of these arrangements?

If the entire funeral or specific items in the agreement are guaranteed by the contract seller, your family or estate will not have to pay any more for those items provided that you have paid the grand total in full and all interest earned is allowed to accumulate in your account. However, if you have not paid the account in full and have not allowed the interest to accumulate in the account and any items increase in price, your family or estate would be responsible for the extra amount if the funds are not sufficient. In some situations where you

pay toward your funding with regular premiums rather than in one lump sum, your account may not be enough at the time of your death to cover everything.

-- What happens to the extra money if my funding is more than what is needed to pay for these arrangements?

Sometimes, as explained in the answer above, your funding account may not have had the time to grow sufficiently before your death to cover items which are guaranteed in price to you, yet have increased in price for the funeral home.

After funeral expenses are paid, there may be money left over. Because of the ongoing risk that a funeral home takes in guaranteeing prices for you, the funeral home may not be required to return this excess money.

Some funding agreements and funeral homes, however, require that extra money be returned to the estate or family. Others do not. You should obtain information concerning this in writing before signing the preneed contract.

The answers to the following questions will depend upon the terms and conditions of the individual's funding and preneed agreements.

Please review your preneed contract and/or funding agreement for answers to these questions.

-- What happens to my preneed contract if I change my assignment from one funeral home to another?

(Funeral home shall place answer here)

-- What happens to my preneed contract if I change the beneficiary of my funding or the use of my proceeds from the funding?

If you make such changes, it could void your contract. You should request specific information from the contract seller and the funding arrangement.

-- What will happen to my preneed contract if I fail to make agreed to premium payments to my funding source?

(Funeral home shall place answer here)

-- Do I get any money back if I surrender or cancel my funding arrangements?

(Funeral home shall place answer here)

-- What happens if the funeral home closes? Will I be able to transfer my contract to another funeral home?

You have the right to change the funeral home (contract provider) at any time prior to receiving services or supplies under the preneed contract. A funeral home is required to notify you in writing if it closes or is sold to a buyer that does not intend to honor your preneed contract.

TRUST ACCOUNT

-- If my money goes into a trust account, what information will I receive about that account?

If you want your money to go into a trust fund, the trust agreement must furnish you with information about the amount to be deposited into the account, the name of the trustee, information about what happens to the interest your trust account will earn, and information about your responsibility to file and pay taxes on that interest.

If there are filing expenses connected with your trust account, you will be notified what the expenses are and whether you or the contract seller is the responsible party for paying those.

-- What happens to the interest earned by the trust?

The interest earned by the trust may be handled in different ways by different trust arrangements. The interest may have to go back into your account if items on your contract are guaranteed. You may be responsible for reporting that interest to the Internal Revenue Service and paying taxes on it. You will be responsible to pay any taxes on the interest earned even if you cancel your trust account.

Some trust accounts cannot be cancelled.

There may be special fees deducted from your interest. However, you may still be responsible for paying taxes on the entire amount of interest earned before the fees were deducted. Please ask your contract seller for a written list of any fees so you will have a clear understanding about them before you sign the contract.

-- If I pay my trust in premium payments, what happens if I die before the grand total of the funeral has been placed in trust?

(Funeral home shall place answer here)

CLAIMS AGAINST THIS CONTRACT

-- Can someone to whom I owe money make a claim against the money, personal property, or real estate that I have used to pay for this contract?

No. This money or property cannot be used to settle a debt, a bankruptcy, or resolve a claim. These funds cannot be garnished.

-- Can the money or property be taxed?

No. Currently, interest earned on the money you deposit in a trust, savings account, or the value of the property you used for payment can be taxed but not the original amount which you invested. Interest earned on annuities is generally deferred until withdrawal.

GENERAL GOODS AND SERVICES

-- If I choose goods and services that might not be available at the time of my death, what is the provider required to do?

The funeral home that you select is required to furnish supplies and services that are similar in style and equal in value and quality if what you choose is no longer made or is not available at the time of your death.

Your representative or next-of-kin will have the right to choose the supplies or services to be substituted. However, if the substitute is more expensive than the item originally selected by you, your designee or next-of-kin would be responsible for paying the difference. Under no circumstances will the funeral establishment be allowed to substitute lesser goods and services than the ones you chose.

If, before your death, the funeral home goes out of business or is otherwise unable to fulfill its obligation to you under the preneed contract, you have the right to use the proceeds at the funeral home of your choice.

If the inability to provide services does not become apparent until the time of your death, the individual that you named as your designee could use the funds for services at another funeral home.

-- May I choose the exact item I want now and have the funeral home store it until my death?

If the funeral home or supplier has a storage policy you may ask for this service. If the funeral home or contract seller agrees to store these items, the risk of loss or damage shall be upon the funeral home during the storage period.

For example, what would happen if you select a casket that is in-stock at the time you make these arrangements and the funeral home or supplier agrees to store it for you in their warehouse and: (i) damage occurs, (ii) the funeral home or supplier goes out of business, (iii) the funeral home or supplier is sold, etc.? You need to be assured in writing of protection in these types of situations.

-- What happens if I choose to have a unique service that is not customary or routine in my community? Must the funeral home comply with my wishes?

The funeral home which you have chosen to conduct your service may be able to only provide certain types of services. They may not be able to fulfill your request. If there is a restriction on what they can provide, you will be notified in writing before you sign the preneed contract.

If the funeral home agrees in writing before you sign the contract to perform such services, the funeral home shall provide you a written, itemized statement of fees which you will be charged.

-- Will the funeral home agree to transport my body to another area for burial?

Again, the funeral home may have restrictions on the distance they are willing to travel to conduct a burial. If restrictions apply, you will be notified in writing.

If the funeral home agrees in writing before you sign the contract to honor your wishes, the funeral home shall provide you a written, itemized statement of any penalties (fees) which you will be charged.

-- I may die and be buried in a city other than one where the funeral home that I select for my goods and services is located. Will the funeral home that I select under this contract deliver my merchandise to the city where I die and am to be buried?

This is entirely up to the funeral home to decide. If the funeral home has restrictions on this, they will notify you in writing. If they agree to ship merchandise to another area for your funeral, you will be notified before signing this contract of the fees involved if they can be determined and guaranteed at this time.

However, the preneed contract arrangements and funding is considered portable. This means that they are available for transfer from one locality to another. It is unusual for actual goods and merchandise to be transferred.

PRICING

-- How will I know that the prices of items which I select are the same for everyone?

The funeral home maintains a general price list and a casket and outer burial container price list. Your contract seller will give this to you before you begin talking about arrangements. After your discussion is finished, you will be given a copy of your preneed contract on which charges will be listed. Charges will only be made for the items you select. If there are any legal or other requirements that mandate that you must buy any items you did not specifically ask for, the contract seller will explain the reason for the charges to you in writing.

You may ask a funeral home to purchase certain items or make special arrangements for you. If the funeral home charges you for these services, you will receive an explanation in writing. The charges to you for these services may be higher than if you or your family purchased them directly.

At the time of your death, your family or estate will be given an itemized statement which will list all of the specific charges.

-- What is meant by guaranteed and nonguaranteed prices?

Some contract sellers may agree that certain prices are guaranteed. Some may guarantee the price of the total package. Other funeral homes may not guarantee any prices.

Guaranteed prices are those that will not increase for your family or estate at the time of your death, provided your preneed contract is fully paid for or funded at the time of your death. Basically, this means that your funeral arrangement for those items will be covered by and will not exceed your funding and the interest it earns.

Nonguaranteed prices are those which might increase or decrease. The nonguaranteed prices may be written in at the time of this contract with your understanding that the price is an estimate only and may increase or decrease. A settlement of any difference in the estimated cost and the actual cost at death may have to be made with your family or representative after your death. Examples of prices that are often not guaranteed include cemetery or crematory services, pallbearers, public transportation, clergy honoraria, flowers musicians or singers, obituary notices, gratuities, and death certificates.

-- Can the contract seller and I negotiate a projected charge for the nonguaranteed items based on the rate of inflation?

It is entirely up to the contract seller to inform you of the funeral home policy in that regard.

CASKETS AND CONTAINERS

-- Do I have to buy a vault or a container to surround the casket in the grave?

In most areas of the country, state and local laws do not require that you buy a container to surround the casket in the grave. However, many cemeteries ask that you have such a container to support the earth above the grave. Either a burial vault or a grave liner will satisfy if such requirements exist.

-- Is a casket required?

A casket is not required for direct cremation. If you want to arrange a direct cremation, you may use an unfinished wood box or an alternative container made of heavy cardboard or composition materials. You may choose a canvas pouch.

-- Do certain cemeteries and crematoriums have special requirements?

Particular cemeteries and crematoriums may have policies requiring that certain goods and services be purchased. If you decide not to purchase goods and services required by a particular cemetery or crematorium, you have the right to select another location that has no such policy.

EMBALMING

-- Is embalming always required?

Embalming is not required by law. Embalming may be necessary, however, if you select certain funeral arrangements such as viewing or visitation with an open casket. You do not have to pay for embalming you did not approve if you select arrangements such as a direct cremation or immediate burial. If the funeral home must charge to conduct an embalming, your designee will be notified of the reasons in writing.

RECORDS

-- What should I do with my preneed contract and documents?

A preneed contract is a legal document. You should keep a copy of your preneed contract and related documentation as you would any similar legal document such as in a safe place or with the person designated to make arrangements at the time of your death.

-- Will the funeral home keep a copy of the preneed contract?

The funeral home is required to maintain a copy of the preneed contract on file prior to and after need. Preneed contracts and related documents are required to be kept by the funeral home for three years after your death.

ASSISTANCE

-- This is all very confusing to me. May I pick someone close to me to help with all of this? May this person also work with the funeral home to ensure that my wishes as written in the preneed contract are carried out?

You may designate in writing a person of your choice to work with the funeral home and

contract seller either before or after your death to ensure that your wishes are fulfilled. You must sign the statement and have it notarized. The person that you designate must agree to this in writing. Under the laws governing preneed contracts, the individual whom you designate has final authority at the time of your death.

-- Where can I complain if I have a problem concerning my preneed contract, the contract seller, or the funeral home?

You may direct your complaints or concerns to:

The Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300

Richmond, Virginia 23233

Telephone Number: (804) 367-4479

Toll Free Number for complaints: 1-800-533-1560

Fax: (804) 527-4413

Website: www.dhp.virginia.gov

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 26, Issue 3, eff. November 11, 2009; Volume 28, Issue 6, eff. December 21, 2011; Volume 29, Issue 3, eff. November 23, 2012; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

Review of
Requirements for
Preparation Rooms
When Embalming Not
Performed

Code of Virginia

Title 54.1. Professions and Occupations

Subtitle III. Professions and Occupations Regulated by Boards within the Department of Health Professions

Chapter 28. Funeral Services

Article 1. Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

§ 54.1-2800. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Advertisement" means any information disseminated or placed before the public.

"At-need" means at the time of death or while death is imminent.

"Board" means the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers.

"Cremate" means to reduce a dead human body to ashes and bone fragments by the action of fire.

"Cremator" means a person or establishment that owns or operates a crematory or crematorium or cremates dead human bodies.

"Crematory" or "crematorium" means a facility containing a furnace for cremation of dead human bodies.

"Declinable preneed funeral guarantee fee" means an optional and declinable fee agreed to by a preneed funeral contract purchaser, if offered by a seller, for which the cost of the supplies and services as described in the preneed funeral contract shall be guaranteed. A declinable preneed funeral guarantee fee, when offered by a seller (i) shall not exceed 25 percent of the preneed funeral contract price, (ii) shall be refundable if the purchaser terminates the contract within 30 days of execution, (iii) shall not be considered a finance fee, and (iv) shall be listed on the general price list in accordance with § 54.1-2812.

"Embalmer" means any person engaged in the practice of embalming.

"Embalming" means the process of chemically treating the dead human body by arterial injection and cavity treatment or, when necessary, hypodermic tissue injection to reduce the presence and growth of microorganisms to temporarily retard organic decomposition.

"Funeral directing" means the for-profit profession of directing or supervising funerals, preparing human dead for burial by means other than embalming, or making arrangements for funeral services or the financing of funeral services.

"Funeral director" means any person engaged in the practice of funeral directing.

"Funeral service establishment" means any main establishment, branch, or chapel that is permanently affixed to the real estate and for which a certificate of occupancy has been issued by the local building official where any part of the profession of funeral directing, the practice of funeral services, or the act of embalming is performed.

"Funeral service intern" means a person who is preparing to be licensed for the practice of funeral services under the direct supervision of a practitioner licensed by the Board.

"Funeral service licensee" means a person who is licensed in the practice of funeral services.

"In-person communication" means face-to-face communication and telephonic communication.

"Next of kin" means any of the following persons, regardless of the relationship to the decedent: any person designated to make arrangements for the disposition of the decedent's remains upon his death pursuant to § 54.1-2825, the legal spouse, child aged 18 years or older, parent of a decedent aged 18 years or older, custodial parent or noncustodial parent of a decedent younger than 18 years of age, siblings over 18 years of age, guardian of minor child, guardian of minor siblings, maternal grandparents, paternal grandparents, maternal siblings over 18 years of age and paternal siblings over 18 years of age, or any other relative in the descending order of blood relationship.

"Practice of funeral services" means engaging in the care and disposition of the human dead, the preparation of the human dead for the funeral service, burial or cremation, the making of arrangements for the funeral service or for the financing of the funeral service and the selling or making of financial arrangements for the sale of funeral supplies to the public.

"Preneed" means at any time other than at-need.

"Preneed funeral contract" means any agreement where payment is made by the consumer prior to the receipt of services or supplies contracted for, which evidences arrangements prior to death for (i) the providing of funeral services or (ii) the sale of funeral supplies. "Preneed funeral contract" does not include transportation protection agreements.

"Preneed funeral planning" means the making of arrangements prior to death for (i) the providing of funeral services or (ii) the sale of funeral supplies.

"Solicitation" means initiating contact with consumers with the intent of influencing their selection of a funeral plan or funeral service provider.

"Transportation protection agreement" means an agreement that provides for the coordination and arranging of all professional services related to transportation of human remains or cremated remains beyond the distance stated in the preneed funeral contract.

Code 1950, § 54-260.1; 1956, c. 220; 1972, c. 797, § 54-260.67; 1988, c. 765; 1989, c. 684; 1991, c. 539; 1997, c. 116; 1998, cc. 718, 867; 2003, c. 505; 2006, c. 56; 2015, cc. 534, 670; 2024, cc. 247, 598.

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section(s) may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

Code of Virginia

Title 54.1. Professions and Occupations

Subtitle III. Professions and Occupations Regulated by Boards within the Department of Health Professions

Chapter 28. Funeral Services

Article 2. Licensure of Funeral Establishments

§ 54.1-2810. Licensure of funeral establishments

No person shall conduct, maintain, manage or operate a funeral establishment unless a license for each such establishment has been issued by the Board. No license to operate a funeral establishment shall be issued by the Board unless each such funeral establishment has in charge, full time, a person licensed for the practice of funeral service or a licensed funeral director. Applications for funeral establishment licenses shall be made on forms furnished by the Board and filed by the owner or the registered agent of the corporation with the Board.

Each funeral establishment license shall expire annually at a time prescribed by Board regulation. A license may be renewed within 30 days of its expiration. Upon expiration of the license, the Board shall notify each licensee of the provisions of this section. Renewal of a license after the expiration of the 30-day period shall be in the discretion of the Board.

Violations of any provisions of this chapter or any Board regulations by any person, or an officer, agent or employee with the knowledge or consent of any person operating a funeral establishment shall be considered sufficient cause for suspension or revocation of the funeral establishment license.

An operator of a funeral establishment shall not allow any person licensed for the practice of funeral service to operate out of his funeral establishment unless the licensee is the operator or an employee of the operator of a licensed funeral establishment.

If the manager of the funeral service establishment is unable, for any reason, to exercise adequate supervision, direction, management, and control of the funeral establishment, the owner shall designate any funeral service licensee to serve as a temporary manager and notify the Board in writing within 14 days. If such inability of the manager exceeds 90 days or is expected to exceed 90 days, a new manager shall be designated and registered with the Board. At the conclusion of the 90-day period for designation of a new manager, a funeral service establishment which has failed to designate a new manager shall not operate as a funeral service establishment.

When licensing funeral establishments, the Board may grant a hardship waiver from the requirement for a full-time manager licensed for the practice of funeral service or licensed as a funeral director, allowing the operation of two funeral establishments having in charge one full-time person licensed for the practice of funeral service or one licensed funeral director who divides his time between the two funeral establishments. Prior to granting a hardship waiver, the Board shall find that (i) the two establishments have been in operation for at least three years; (ii) the combined average number of funeral calls at the two establishments, as submitted in monthly reports to the Division of Vital Records and Health Statistics of the Virginia Department of Health, over the previous three years is no more than 135 per year; and (iii) the distance between the two establishments is 50 miles or less.

Prior to granting a renewal of a license granted under a hardship waiver, the Board shall determine whether the requirements for license renewal under such waiver continue to exist.

Code 1950, §§ 54-260.39, 54-260.40; 1956, c. 220; 1972, c. 797, § 54-260.73; 1974, 164; 1978, c. 849; 1988, c. 765; 1996, c. 757; 2000, c. 773; 2013, c. 108; 2019, c. 66.

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section(s) may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

Code of Virginia

Title 54.1. Professions and Occupations

Subtitle III. Professions and Occupations Regulated by Boards within the Department of Health Professions

Chapter 28. Funeral Services

Article 2. Licensure of Funeral Establishments

§ 54.1-2811. Facility requirements

A funeral service establishment shall contain a preparation room equipped with a tile, cement or other waterproof floor, proper drainage and ventilation, the necessary instruments and supplies for the preparation and embalming of dead human bodies for burial, transportation or other disposition, and separate restroom facilities.

A funeral service establishment having more than one location at which it performs funeral services shall not be required to maintain more than one preparation room.

The Board may adopt regulations and classifications to prescribe proper drainage and ventilation and necessary instruments and supplies in preparation rooms and separate restroom facilities.

Code 1950, §§ 54-260.39, 54-260.40; 1956, c. 220; 1972, c. 797, § 54-260.73; 1974, 164; 1978, c. 849; 1988, c. 765.

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section(s) may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

Part VII. Standards for Embalming and Refrigeration

18VAC65-20-540. Preparation room requirements.

- A. Every funeral service establishment at which embalming of dead human bodies is performed shall have at least one room used exclusively for embalming or preparation of the body.
- B. The following are required of the preparation room or rooms:
1. The walls shall extend floor to ceiling;
 2. The floor and wall surfaces shall be of a material or covered by a material impervious to water; and
 3. The material shall extend from wall to wall with all joints tight and sanitary.
- C. All functions connected with embalming shall be performed within the preparation room.

Statutory Authority

§ 54.1-2400 and Chapter 28 (§ 54.1-2800 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 11.4, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999.

Virginia Administrative Code
Title 18. Professional And Occupational Licensing
Agency 65. Board of Funeral Directors And Embalmers
Chapter 20. Regulations Governing the Practice of Funeral Services

Part VII. Standards for Embalming and Refrigeration

18VAC65-20-570. Condition of preparation room.

- A. The preparation room or rooms shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition at all times, subject to inspection.
- B. Inventories of embalming and preparation materials shall be stored in a container and in a manner that makes them impervious to water and protects them from contamination.
- C. Any items or supplies not directly used in an embalming procedure shall not be stored in the preparation room.

Statutory Authority

§ 54.1-2400 and Chapter 28 (§ 54.1-2800 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 11.7, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 20, Issue 8, eff. January 28, 2004; Errata 20:10 VA.R. 1060 January 26, 2004.

Part VII. Standards for Embalming and Refrigeration

18VAC65-20-580. Preparation room equipment.

The preparation room or rooms shall be equipped with:

1. A ventilation system which operates and is appropriate to the size and function of the room;
2. Running hot and cold water;
3. Flush or slop sink connected with public sewer or with septic tank where no public sewer is available;
4. Metal, fiberglass, or porcelain morgue table;
5. Covered waste container;
6. Instruments and apparatus for the embalming process;
7. A means or method for the sterilization or disinfection of reusable instruments by chemical bath or soak; autoclave (steam); or ultraviolet light;
8. Disinfectants and antiseptic solutions;
9. Clean gowns or aprons, preferably impervious to water;
10. Rubber gloves for each embalmer , intern, or student using the room;
11. An electric aspirator or hydroaspirator equipped with a vacuum breaker;
12. An eye wash station that is readily accessible; and
13. A standard first aid kit, that is immediately accessible, either in the preparation room or outside the door to the preparation room.

Statutory Authority

§§54.1-2400 and 54.1-2803 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR320-01-2 § 11.8, eff. October 24, 1990; amended, Virginia Register Volume 8, Issue 25, eff. October 7, 1992; Volume 11, Issue 14, eff. May 3, 1995; Volume 15, Issue 7, eff. January 20, 1999; Volume 20, Issue 8, eff. January 28, 2004; Volume 22, Issue 21, eff. July 26, 2006; Volume 29, Issue 25, eff. September 26, 2013; Volume 37, Issue 12, eff. March 3, 2021.

Inspections of Funeral Establishments and Crematories

Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

GUIDANCE FOR INSPECTORS AND LICENSEES

If a funeral home or crematory transports a body from the hospital or place of death, does the body have to be in a cremation container?

The intent of the regulation is that upon arrival at the funeral home the decedent shall be placed in a cremation container for transfer to the crematory. 18VAC65-20-436(C).

Is the DEQ permit number of the retort required on every form in the deceased's cremation record?

No, it is only required to be listed on one form in the decedent's cremation record. 18VAC65-20-436(D).

Can a crematory that operates within a funeral establishment have a separate manager of record or can the establishment's manager serve as the manager of record for both?

Yes, a manager of record of the funeral establishment can also serve as manager of record of the crematory or they can have two separate managers. However if the manager of record of the crematory is not a licensee, the establishment's manager of record is ultimately responsible for both the establishment and the crematory. 18VAC65-20-435.

If a crematory is not a funeral establishment or a branch of a funeral establishment, can they sell preneed?

No, they must be licensed as a funeral establishment or a branch of a funeral establishment. Va. Code § 54.1-2805.

Do the regulations still require a contract number on a preneed contract?

No, however the funeral home must be able to show verification of the funding and payment. Va. Code § 54.1-2820.

What duties can unlicensed staff perform in the preparation of the body?

An unlicensed person may assist with cosmetizing, dressing and casketing the deceased. An unlicensed individual may wash or use soap and water to cleanse or prepare a dead human body for disposition by the authorized agents, family, or friends of the deceased who do so privately without pay or as part of the ritual washing and preparation of dead human bodies prescribed by religious practices.

When a funeral home takes arrangement instructions from another funeral home on an at-need contract, whose signature should be on the buyer's signature line?

It is not mandated by regulations but is suggested to have the calling funeral home's name and the name of the funeral director who is giving instruction on the buyer's signature line.

Can a funeral home keep a log or spreadsheet versus an individual embalming record?

No, 18VAC65-20-510 clearly requires that every funeral establishment shall record and maintain a separate, identifiable report for each embalming procedure conducted, which

shall at a minimum include the following: the deceased's name and date of death, the date and location of the embalming, the name and signature of the embalmer and the license number of the embalmer and if the embalming was performed by a funeral service intern and if so the signature of the supervisor, location of embalming, date of death, date of embalming.

If a funeral home lists the full price of a package on the Statement of Goods and Services must it also identify on the contract the specific items that are included in the package?

Yes, the funeral home may either list the items individually on the Statement of Goods and Services or place an asterisk around each item included in the package on the contract. The intent is that the reader can understand which items are included in the package. (Appendix III)

Is it acceptable to the board for a license to be posted in a private business office?

No, a public lounge or an arrangement room is acceptable. 18VAC65-20-50 states that each licensee shall post an original or photocopy of his license in a place conspicuous to consumers of funeral services in each establishment or branch where he is employed.

Additionally, if the funeral establishment uses contract embalmers only on rare occasions, a funeral home does not have to post that embalmer's license as long as the funeral home keeps it on file (Board approved 12/06).

Can enamel based paint be used as a material impervious to water?

Enamel based paint is considered impervious to water and is an acceptable material for the floor and wall surfaces.

May a drainage tube be connected to the embalming table and run straight into the sewer?

Yes, the regulations states that the preparation room shall be equipped with a flush or slop sink connected with public sewer or with septic tank where no public sewer is available. 18VAC65-20-580.

Can the disinfectants and antiseptic solutions be stored on the floor in the preparation room in properly labeled containers?

Yes, both disinfectants and antiseptic solutions may be stored on the floor of the prep room in properly labeled containers. Inventories of embalming and preparation materials shall be stored in a container and in a manner that makes them impervious to water and protects them from contamination. 18VAC65-20-570.

What type of evidence does the board want regarding disposal of waste materials?

Disposal of all waste materials shall be in conformity with local, state, and federal law and regulation to avoid the possible spread of disease. The funeral service establishment shall provide evidence of a current contractual agreement with or services provided by a licensed medical waste disposal company. Evidence may include a letter of agreement, a contract or a recent billing for the service. 18VAC65-20-590.

Will the board accept electronic copies of requested documents that are no longer current?

Yes, the Board will accept electronic copies of forms that are no longer current.

Can the main funeral service establishment maintain all records, including those for branch establishments?

Yes, with the exception of embalming reports, which must be maintained at the site of the embalming pursuant to 18VAC65-20-700(A).

If the funeral home charges the same price for embalming of normal remains and autopsy remains, is it only necessary to list the charge once on the general price list?

Yes. (See Appendix 1 – General Price list)

Can you provide guidance on the price range for the following categories?

Immediate Burial: Your prices should range from the price for immediate burial with container provided by purchaser to the price for immediate burial plus your most expensive casket.

Direct Cremation: A price range must be given for a direct cremation. Your prices should range from the price of direct cremation with a container provided by the purchaser to the price for direct cremation plus the most expensive wooden casket acceptable for cremation or the most expensive cremation casket, whichever is higher. When in doubt, please refer to Appendix 1 for reference or call the board office.

Funeral Merchandise: The casket and outer burial container price ranges shall match the prices on the Casket and Outer Burial Container Price Lists. The price does not include tax on the merchandise.

Is manufacturer information required for casket and outer burial container price lists?

Yes. Although the FTC does not require the manufacturers' names on the price lists, the Board does require this as means to identify the caskets and outer burial containers. 18VAC65-20-630; Appendix I and II.

Must the preneed list be separate from the insurance company's list and can a blanket statement be used indicating if 10% of the funds are retained?

The list may have a blanket statement indicating whether 10% of the funds are retained and if funeral merchandise is stored on the premises. 18VAC65-30-70. The preneed list must be separate from the insurance company's list and contain the required information stipulated by 18VAC65-30-70.

When do you add a name to the preneed list and when should you remove a name from the chronological list?

The proper time to add a name to the preneed list is when the funeral director and the buyer sign the pre-need contract. The time to remove a name from the list is after the death of the contract beneficiary.

What is a proper ventilation system?

The preparation room must have a ventilation system, which operates and is appropriate to the size and function of the room, and takes the air from the inside to the outside of the room. Holding a piece of paper near the vent usually will provide an adequate test for an operable ventilation system. *See, e.g.*, 18VAC65-20-580(1).

The language in Virginia Code § 54.1-2811.1 (B) is somewhat vague in the actual refrigeration requirement. The language reads “no more than approximately 40 degrees.” What temperature will be within acceptable limits?

The Board agreed to accept a 10% variance of the required temperature.

What constitutes evidence of placing and maintaining a body in refrigeration?

Evidence of compliance with the requirement for refrigeration shall be maintained as a log entry or other documentation indicating times of placement in and removal of a body from refrigeration. 18VAC65-20-581(C).

Can the preparation room for a funeral establishment be located in a separate building on the premises, or must the preparation room be contained within the main structure of the funeral establishment?

The Board’s statutes and regulations do not specify that the preparation room be contained within the main establishment building, as long as it is part of the property licensed as the main or branch establishment and is encompassed by the certificate of occupancy issued by the local building official. A preparation room located at a separate premises or property with a separate or different address should be licensed as a separate funeral services establishment. The facility should ensure the appropriate care and handling of decedents who may be transported between separate buildings on the premises of the funeral establishment. *See Va. Code §§ 54.1-2800, 54.1-2811, 54.1-2811.1.*

Can a crematory open a second retort in a second building under the crematory’s singular registration?

According to the *Code of Virginia*, a “crematory” or “crematorium” means “a facility containing a furnace for cremation of dead human bodies.” If the second retort is located on a separate property with a separate address, the retort in the second building should be registered separately as a crematory. A crematory that does not provide funeral services directly to the public is not required to obtain a separate license as a funeral establishment. *Va. Code §§ 54.1-2800, 54.1-2814.1.*

If embalming is included as a charge in a preneed contract, is this considered express permission to embalm at-need?

A dead human body shall not be embalmed in the absence of express permission by a next of kin of the deceased or a court order. *Va. Code §§ 54.1-2806(26), 54.1-2811.1 (B).* Express permission by a next of kin for embalming means written authorization to embalm as a specific and separate statement on a document or contract provided by the funeral establishment. 18VAC65-20-510.

The contract buyer or purchaser of a preneed contract may be the person who passes, not their next of kin, and the wording of the express permission language references permission given at-need rather than preneed (next of kin *of the deceased*). Accordingly, unless there is additional documentation indicating express permission to embalm, the inclusion of an embalming charge in a preneed contract alone would not constitute express permission.