



PRESS RELEASE

OFDA Announcement to Funeral Service Families Regarding COVID-19 Pandemic

COLUMBUS, OH — March 18, 2020

Given the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to know that funeral directors throughout Ohio are taking precautions to limit exposure to the coronavirus. We are still operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week making certain that those entrusted to our care and the families we serve are receiving uninterrupted service and attention, regardless of the cause of death. Serving our communities with loss is our privilege and honor.

The Ohio Funeral Directors Association stays in contact with federal and state agencies including the Center for Disease Control, Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Emergency Management Agency. We have been sharing information with our members as it becomes available. Funeral homes in Ohio have been in contact with their local Health Departments to ensure the safety and public welfare of our Ohio communities. In addition, Ohio funeral homes are required to participate in public health and safety training annually.

As health officials have indicated, one way to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus is through limiting public gatherings. Our sympathies go out to anyone who has the additional burden of grief and loss during this time, and we are here to guide each family with their needs on an individual basis. Furthermore, we encourage bereaved families to work with funeral professionals to create meaningful services that fall within the governor's, and Center of Disease Control, recommendation of limiting large public gatherings.

Social distancing is the best way to limit the spread of the COVID-19. If you are experiencing a cough, fever, or shortness of breath, we encourage you to not attend funeral services. Staying home speeds your recovery and prevents spreading illness, as well as protects those in high-risk groups. Reach out to the funeral home handling services and they will share your sympathies with the family of the deceased. The funeral home may be able to offer options to let the bereaved know you support and care for them during this difficult time.

We are your neighbors and friends. Funeral directors live and work in your communities and we take the impact of this pandemic seriously.

Above all, we are committed to the families we serve. We remain focused on maintaining high standards and ethical practices as we serve the dead and bereaved with the health and well-being of our communities in mind as we move forward together in the coming weeks and months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary M. Burr'.

Gary M. Burr, CFSP

President

Ohio Funeral Directors Association

ABOUT OFDA: The Ohio Funeral Directors Association is the funeral directors' professional community and is a recognized voice and resource for information on issues affecting the funeral service profession as well as the bereaved community that we are honored to serve in the many cities and towns throughout Ohio. Together we leverage experience, expertise and influence to anticipate and address issues, to build skills, to develop practical solutions to business problems and to set the standard for quality service and ethical practice when serving bereaved families. OFDA represents more than 85% of funeral homes in Ohio.