**Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers**

**Permission to Embalm**

Virginia Code §54.1-2806 (26) and §54.1-2811.1 (B) state that 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.”

The Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers interprets “*express permission by a next of kin*” to mean written authorization *to embalm* as a specific and separate statement on a document or contract provided by the facility. Express permission may include direct, verbal authorization *to embalm,* provided it is followed as soon as possible by a written document 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.