

From: Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers
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Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers
News Brief

COVID-19 UPDATES

COVID-19 Vaccination Information

To find out more information related to the COVID-19 vaccine, and when the vaccine will be available to you, please see the Virginia Department of Health information at the following link <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/> or the following link "[Find out Which Phase You are Eligible For.](#)"

Fatality Management and Access to Emergency Resources

The following information was provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to assist with fatality management:

VDEM Resources

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) is prepared to assist with fatality management challenges. VDEM has standby contracts for refrigerated trucks, a large stockpile of PPE (including body bags), and has a robust network of personnel which can provide assistance. VDEM is the conduit for any federal support from FEMA (and other agencies as needed) and has access to the FEMA supply chain. Requests for assistance or resources should go through the regional emergency managers.

Who to Contact

Do you know who to contact if you are facing a fatality management issue? Funeral homes, long-term care facilities, and others in the fatality management industry should contact their local emergency manager for assistance and for resource requests. A contact list of regional emergency managers can be accessed at: <https://lemd.vdem.virginia.gov/Public/Default.aspx>.

Renewal Reminders

Click here for more [information on upcoming renewals](#).

Bulk Renewals/Individual Licensees

The Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers does not process bulk renewals in which documentation is sent to the Board regarding the renewal of multiple individual licenses with one lump sum payment. The renewal process is available [online](#); Licensees should renew their licenses and attest to completion of required continuing education. Any request for bulk renewals received by the Board for individual licensees will be returned to the sender, which may result in late renewals.

Emergency Regulations in Effect – Licensure of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

During the 2020 General Assembly Session, legislation was enacted to require the Board to develop regulations for the issuance of separate Funeral Director and Embalmer licenses ([2020 Acts of Assembly, Ch. 943](#)).

In response to this legislation, [Emergency Regulations for the Issuance of Funeral Director and Embalmer Licenses](#) became effective on **January 5, 2021** . With these regulations in place, the Board will again issue separate licenses for Funeral Directors and Embalmers in addition to Funeral Service licenses, or combined licenses, which will remain unchanged.

To access [application forms](#) and [FAQ's](#) related to the issuance of Funeral Director and Embalmer licenses and requirements for internships, visit the [Board's website](#).

Note: A public comment period is currently open from February 1 to March 3, 2021, regarding the regulations for separate licensure of Funeral Directors and Embalmers (Emergency/NOIRA Stage). To access information on the status of the regulations or to provide comment, visit the [Virginia Town Hall Website](#).

Reminder – Continuing Education Requirements for Licensees and Course Providers

In order to renew an active license, licensees are required to meet requirements for continuing education (CE). These requirements are set forth in Virginia Code [§ 54.1-2816.1](#) and in [18VAC65-20-151](#).

The Board will only accept for credit CE courses that are directly related to the scope of practice of funeral service. The practice of funeral services is defined in [Virginia Code § 54.1-2800](#).

Classes for credit must emphasize the ethics, standards of practice, preneed contracts and funding, or federal or state laws and regulations governing the profession. 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. (18VAC65-20-151.)

Licensees are required to retain written documentation or certification of course completion from the course provider for a period of two years. (Va. Code § 54.1-2816.1.)

For FAQ's and additional information related to CE requirements, please visit the Board's website at: https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/funeral/faq_CE.htm.

Be sure to check the Board's website often for updated news and information.

Contact Information

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