



News Brief

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day



April 29th marks the 12th annual drug takeback day in Virginia. Safely dispose of your expired or unused prescriptions in a safe, convenient, and responsible way at a drug takeback location near you.

- [Read a letter from DHP Director Dr. David Brown](#)
- [Learn more about the DEA prescription drug takeback initiative](#)
- [Find a collection site near you](#)

Pending Regulatory Actions

Clarification of permission to embalm and refrigeration of human remains

Stage: Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA)

Summary: The Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers has adopted guidance documents on its interpretation of the statutory requirements for express permission to embalm a body and for refrigeration of a dead human body. The intent of this regulatory action is to incorporate the Board's guidance on those requirements into its regulations so, if necessary, compliance can be enforced through a disciplinary proceeding.

Status: Submitted to the Registrar and awaiting publication (5/15/2017). A Public Comment Period will run from May 15, 2017, to June 14, 2017.

CE Credit for Board Meetings

Stage: Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA)

Summary: The Board intends to amend 18VAC65-20-151, which provides requirements for continued competency for renewal of an active license. The Board intends to amend the section by offering one hour of CE credit every other year for attendance at a board meeting or at an informal conference or formal hearing. In the year the one hour of credit was granted, it could meet the statutory requirement for "one hour per year covering compliance with federal or state laws and regulations governing the profession (§ 54.1-2816.1)."

Status: DPB review in progress

For more information or updates on these pending regulatory actions, please visit **The Virginia Regulatory Townhall Website** at <http://townhall.virginia.gov>.



Continuing Education Credits for Volunteer Services – New Regulation Effective March 9, 2017

18VAC65-20-151. Continued Competency Requirements for Renewal of an Active License.

A. Funeral service licensees, funeral directors or funeral 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. One hour per year shall cover compliance with laws and regulations governing the profession, and at least one hour per year shall cover preneed funeral arrangements. *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.*

Guidance Document Updates

In January and April, 2017, the Board adopted or revised a number of Guidance Documents:

New Guidance Documents

65-8, [Permission to Embalm](#), adopted January 10, 2017

65-18, [Refrigeration of Dead Human Bodies](#), adopted January 10, 2017

Revised Guidance Documents

65-12, [Board Action on Confidential Consent Agreements](#), revised January 10, 2017

65-16, [Procedures for Auditing Continuing Education](#), revised April 18, 2017

Revised Inspection Documents

76-21.3.1, [Funeral Inspection Report](#), revised April 17, 2017

For a complete listing of the Board's Guidance Documents, please visit the Board's website at: http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/funeral/fun_guidelines.htm or the Virginia Regulatory Townhall website at: <http://townhall.virginia.gov>.

Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS)

The Virginia Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) was launched in September 2014 to enable participants in the death registration process to file death records online with the Virginia Department of Health's Division of Vital Records (DVR), creating the option of a paperless system.

The EDRS system facilitates collaboration among multiple death registration users, including funeral homes, hospitals, nursing homes, physicians, medical examiners, and the DVR. Using the EDRS, funeral directors, physicians and medical certifiers are able to complete their part of the death registration process faster, with fewer errors and more efficiently.

For more information about the EDRS and how funeral service licensees can register to use the system, please visit the EDRS website at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/vital-records/electronic-death-registration-system/> or contact the Division of Vital Records at:

VDH-DVR Contact Information:

Telephone number: (804) 864-7200, press option 2

Fax: (804) 864-7155

Email: oim_webappshelp@vdh.virginia.gov

Additional Resources on the Completion of Death Certificates

- [Virginia Code § 32.1-263](#). Filing death certificates; medical certification; investigation by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.
- [Letter Regarding the Completion of Death Certificates from the State Health Commissioner and the Board of Medicine's Executive Director](#) (August 1, 2014)
- Virginia Department of Health – Death Certificate Information: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medical-examiner/death-certification-information/>

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

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