



## News Brief

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### ***Message from the Board President and Executive Director***

Dear Funeral Service Licensees,

For the June 2017 News Brief, we wanted to take the time to highlight information that is both timely and important for our licensees and the work that they do every day: from the impact of the opioid crisis in funeral homes and the availability of resources for licensees, to the activities of the Board and upcoming Board meetings. We encourage you to distribute this information to your colleagues and staff.

It is a pleasure to serve you all. Thank you all for the work that you do every day for families and their loved ones across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

*Louis R. Jones, FSL*  
Board President

*Corie E. Tillman Wolf, J.D.*  
Executive Director

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### ***The Opioid Crisis: Naloxone and Funeral Directors***

The escalating opioid epidemic has impacted communities all across Virginia. In response to that epidemic, numerous legislative and regulatory efforts are underway to increase awareness among health care providers and decrease access to opioids for those patients and individuals who may be susceptible to abuse or overdose.

Recently, legislation passed in the General Assembly, HB 1642/SB 1031, provided for the possession and administration of an opioid antagonist such as naloxone by employees of the Department of Forensic Science, employees of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and employees of the Department of General Services Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services. The legislation addressed a concern that these employees may be exposed to potent opioid chemicals during a death and/or criminal investigation. That potential exposure may increase the risk of adverse health effects, including a possible accidental overdose, requiring the administration of an agent to reverse the effects. The legislation enables these employees to have naloxone on hand for this purpose.

The passage of this legislation also brings to mind a potential concern of exposure to opioid contaminants for another set of practitioners: funeral service licensees who provide care for deceased victims of the opioid crisis.

The following provides information about naloxone and the availability of naloxone in Virginia:

❖ **Understanding Naloxone**

[This flyer from the Virginia Board of Pharmacy](#) explains what naloxone is, how it works, who may obtain it, and how it is administered.

❖ **[REVIVE! Program](#)**

REVIVE! is the Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education (OONE) program for the Commonwealth of Virginia. REVIVE! provides training to professionals, stakeholders, and others on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose emergency with the administration of naloxone (Narcan®). REVIVE! is a collaborative effort led by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) working alongside the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Health Professions, recovery community organizations such as the McShin Foundation, OneCare of Southwest Virginia, the Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance of Virginia (SAARA), and other stakeholders.

--From the REVIVE! Program, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services -  
<http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/individuals-and-families/substance-abuse/revive>

❖ **[REVIVE! Brochure](#)**

This brochure was designed for pharmacists to distribute when dispensing naloxone.

For more information on the opioid crisis, naloxone, and additional resources available, please visit the [REVIVE! website](#) through the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

Please also visit the [Department of Health Professions website](#) for updates and information on how the health professions boards are working to address the opioid crisis.

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## ***Accessing Vital Records at DMV Service Centers***



### ***DMV offers a convenient resource for death certificates***

A number of funeral service licensees have been taking advantage of the availability of death certificates at the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) since the agency began partnering with the Division of Vital Records to offer the service in 2015. For those licensees who have not accessed this service, the following provides additional information about DMV as an important and convenient resource.

Virginia birth, marriage, divorce, and death certificates are available for purchase at all of DMV's 75 customer service centers and five mobile offices. The cost of a death certificate at DMV is \$14. The walk-in process for obtaining a vital record is the same as it would be if you dealt directly with the Division of Vital Records in Richmond. The difference is that a DMV office can be found in nearly every community in Virginia. Online and mail requests for certificates are still handled by the Division of Vital Records.

For more information, please click [here](#) to visit the vital records page at DMV's website.

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## News from the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards

### The Funeral Practitioner Job/Task Analysis Survey

#### A Message from Lauren Thomas, Member Services Manager:

Dear Licensed Funeral Practitioner,

Please take the time to complete the Funeral Practitioner Job/Task Analysis Survey and share this link with your fellow licensed practitioners. This survey will help capture new developments in the field as well as shape future Funeral Service licensure exams. Your participation is crucial to better understanding the job and the nature of the field, and it is extremely important that you provide your feedback about the job by completing this survey. The following link will lead you to the survey, as well as instructions as to how to complete it. By completing the survey, there is a chance to earn Continuing Education credit. We have partnered with the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice (APFSP), as well as several state licensing boards to award CE credit. Thank you in advance for your time and feedback!

#### Survey Link:

<https://www.research.net/r/2955P39>

*In the circulation of the survey, you may receive the link more than once, but only one submission is requested.*

If you have any questions regarding the survey please direct them to Sarah Gill at [exams@theconferenceonline.org](mailto:exams@theconferenceonline.org).

Lauren Thomas  
Member Services Manager  
The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards  
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## 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>.

## ***Guidance Document 65-4 – Aiding and Abetting Unlicensed Practice***

Licensees bear the burden of ensuring that other entities with whom they contract or subcontract for funeral services are properly licensed.

For more information, licensees are encouraged to review the Virginia Board’s [Guidance Document, 65-4](#), regarding Aiding and Abetting Unlicensed Practice.

### ***Upcoming Board Meetings***

- **July 13, 2017 (9:30 a.m.)** – Ad Hoc Committee on Funeral Internships
- **July 18, 2017 (9:00 a.m.)** – Full Board Meeting
- **October 10, 2017 (10:00 a.m.)** – Full Board Meeting

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

### **Contact Information**

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