

Results for Interesting Facts About Funeral Directing



1. According to Arizona Motorcycle Escorts, what is the average speed a hearse should travel at while going in procession to the cemetery if the hearse takes surface streets (with a 30 MPH limit) through a city?

Your Answer: 23 MPH

The safety of all parties involved in a procession is of the utmost of importance. At 23 MPH, you are not going so slow that you would cause accidents, yet you are going slow enough to control the entourage. Families generally think you are going slowly to show respect for the deceased. Of course, we want to do that, however the main reason for that speed is to ensure the safety of those partaking in the procession.



2. Which way does the casket of a Catholic priest face during his funeral mass?

Your Answer: the foot end of the casket facing the congregation

It is done this way because, during life, the priest spent his time at the altar looking out into the congregation. Parishioners are done the opposite way (foot end of the casket facing the altar) because that was the position they held in the church during life.



3. How many stars should be showing on a properly folded and displayed flag for a veteran of the United States Military?

Your Answer: four

Each star represents one branch of the military: Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines.



4. How can a deceased person be transported across state lines if all necessary permits accompany him?

Your Answer: all of these

The two important things here are the minimum protective container and the permit. The container could be anything from a cardboard/plywood constructed container all the way up to a bronze casket. I once served a family who constructed their own casket out of wood. We then placed their father in that casket. The family then loaded the casket in the back of their pick-up truck and drove across state lines, with the permit, to the cemetery for burial.



5. What type of casket construction is acceptable for burial under Jewish tradition?

Your Answer: all-wood

Traditionally, people of the Jewish faith are buried in all-wood caskets. They are usually dressed in an all white shroud, and a bit of "Holy Earth" (sacred dirt) is placed under their head.



6. What is the industry term used for going to get the remains of a person from their place of death?

Your Answer: removal

The removal usually provides the funeral director with some interesting stories. Many times, family members will be present for these removals. With that in mind, we have to be on our best behavior, because the families can see the amount of care used with their loved one. You can imagine that we see all kinds of emotion on these removals. I've seen everything from wailing all the way to a celebratory type of atmosphere. We as funeral directors never know what we will come across when we go on a removal.



7. What is the average temperature that a human body is cremated at?

Your Answer: 1400-1600 degrees Fahrenheit

At this temperature, it takes the average case approximately 2 hours to be cremated. After the cremation, all that is left are bone fragments. These fragments can be somewhat large, so they are further reduced in size with a grinding machine. The cremated remains are not so much ash as they are small bone fragments.



8. What does the term "Thermal Reduction" refer to?

Your Answer: keeping remains in a refrigeration unit

"Thermal Reduction" is a contractual term used by some funeral homes when they charge for having remains stored in their refrigeration units. This is not often incurred by the family. It usually comes about when a deceased is left in the care of a funeral home for an extraordinary amount of time, like several weeks or months.



9. Every state in the union requires the funeral director to have a license.

Your Answer: False

The state of Colorado does not require licenses for funeral directors.



10. Which of the following is NOT an inexpert test for death (that is a test to be used by non-medical professionals to determine death)?

Your Answer: taking "deceased's" temperature

The deceased's temperature may actually increase slightly just after death. It will then slowly cool down to room temperature. The "inexpert" tests can be used if a funeral director is not sure about the status of a person. Usually, there are medical people around to confirm death. Also, it is usually very evident when someone has passed. Many times their eyes and mouths are wide open. Sometimes there is a discoloration of the skin. Normally, a funeral director can tell. These tests are used in the rare occasion when he can't tell.