Funeral and Cemetery Guidance

In light of the Governor’s stay at home order currently in place, and the restriction of gatherings to fewer that ten persons, the following guidance has been created for funeral services:

You are required to:

- Limit the number of people per services (including guests and staff) to 10 or fewer.
- Rooms must allow for at least 30 square feet per person, and visitors from separate households must maintain at least 6 feet of distance at all times.
- Require people who are ill or who are part of an at-risk population (e.g., the elderly, immune-compromised, etc.) to stay home.
- Remind families how to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as staying home if they are sick, social distancing, washing their hands, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Keep soap dispensers filled in public (and employee) restrooms and sanitize after each group.
- Offer alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol to guests (and employees).

Cemetery Visitation:

- Visitors should maintain 6 feet of distance at all times between members of separate households.
- To prevent overcrowding, no more than 3 people should visit a single gravesite at one time. If more people wish to visit, they should take turns in smaller groups of 3 or fewer.
- In addition to the above requirements, the National Funeral Directors Association has developed the following alternatives you can also offer families.
  - Consider a private viewing for only immediate family and/or close friends and have a large memorial service for all family and friends at a later date.
  - Hold a smaller service for immediate family in person and webcast using either a webcasting service or Facebook Live.
  - Record the service on video, which could be shared with whomever the family deems appropriate.
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It is recommended that funeral homes immediately discontinue the use of the following items, and any other similar items, due to inability to easily disinfect and to enable social distancing:

- Lap blankets
- Water cooler service
- Chairs and chair covers
- Tent sidewalls

Some funeral homes are taking additional measures such as:

- Keeping the front door open (weather permitting) or ensuring a staff person is always available to open a door during visitations and services to prevent people from touching the door knob
- Offering free or reduced cost webcasting