



April 2, 2020

Pennsylvania Waives Certain Requirements for Funeral Resident Interns

In Pennsylvania, funeral directors are licensed by the State Board of Funeral Directors and are subject to a number of regulations, several of which pertain to funeral “resident interns,” who are working towards gaining their funeral director license. An individual who is seeking to become a licensed funeral director must first obtain a resident intern license, and then complete certain training in a funeral establishment in the Commonwealth under the supervision of a licensed funeral director under or with whom a resident intern is registered and operates.

The COVID-19 emergency created urgent circumstances across many industries including the funeral business, which finds itself under a number of mandates and precautions that have been set by the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health. The number of funerals that include public visitation have decreased due to social distancing concerns. Funerals involving cremation and immediate burial have increased. The need for embalming, cosmetizing, dressing and directing of funerals has dropped dramatically.

Many funeral establishments began laying off resident interns. It is likely that most of those interns will face the prospect of a lengthy gap in their training. Under the Board’s current regulations, interns whose gap exceeds 30 days will have to start their training over from the beginning.

The Governor granted a request by the Department of State and the State Board of Funeral Directors that the 30-day time period requirement for interruption be temporarily suspended until the COVID-19 emergency ends and that such time period be automatically extended to 120 days.

Resident interns do not need to file anything with the Board or otherwise seek permission to remain in the program to avail themselves of the 120-day extension. Funeral directors will be encouraged to retain resident interns until the training is completed, if possible. If it is not possible and resident interns are laid off before their training can be completed, resident interns will not be required to start their training anew unless interruption has continued for 120 days.

For all licensing-related inquiries, please use the email addresses found here: [Board Contact Info.](#)