

The State Board of Funeral Directors and the Maryland State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors entered into an agreement for reciprocal licensure for Pennsylvania funeral directors and Maryland morticians.

Here are some key points to know about this agreement:

1. Maryland funeral directors are not eligible for reciprocal licensure. The scope of practice for a Maryland mortician is comparable to a Pennsylvania funeral director.

2. The Funeral Director Law provides that:

“Integration and coordination of all educational requirements and examination procedures, including any academic work at a college or university or actual class work in didactic and laboratory studies in mortuary college or university, shall be permitted *and shall be encouraged* under any rules or regulations that the board shall make.” 63 P.S. §479.3(d). Emphasis added.

3. The Funeral Director Law also provides that:

“The board may grant licenses to individuals from other states if: (1) the *applicants’ standards and qualifications for licensing are at least as high as those provided hereby*; (2) similar privileges are accorded persons licensed in this Commonwealth; (3) the applicants hold valid licenses from their state of residence; and (4) the terms and conditions prescribed by the board are complied with.” 63 P.S. § 479.9(b). Emphasis added.

4. Therefore, there is no statutory requirement that educational requirements be *identical* to Pennsylvania. Furthermore, the statute recognizes that integrated professional and general education are encouraged.

5. Maryland requires 46 hours of mortuary science education compared to the 30 credits required for Pennsylvania. On that point, Maryland’s standards are higher than Pennsylvania’s.

6. A Maryland mortician must have 5 years of licensure in good standing in order to obtain a reciprocal license, and during that five year period, a Maryland mortician must complete more than 24 credits of continuing professional education, compared to 12 credits for a Pennsylvania licensed funeral director. The experience requirements and the higher continuing education requirements in Maryland offsets any difference in general education.