



Indiana Funeral Directors Association

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IFDA Coronavirus (COVID-19) ADVISORY-UPDATE

Monday, March 23, 2020

Earlier today, Monday, March 23, 2020, Gov. Eric Holcomb updated the State of Indiana's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To begin, it is important to know that on Friday March 20, 2020, funeral directors were elevated officially to the status of "Critical Infrastructure Workers" in the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). IFDA, earlier this morning, provided Gov. Holcomb a letter confirming this status and your willingness to stand ready in assisting Hoosiers.

In today's executive order (included) Governor Holcomb recognized this designation. In the coming days, a copy will be released to you and to the emergency management directors of your counties and the 10 Indiana regions. This is a very large distinction for all of funeral service! NFDA, and many state funeral associations including IFDA, have worked in concert for numerous years to attain this status which recognizes the essential nature of your role in the overall welfare of your communities, especially in times of national emergency, and holds you at priority status in your counties for such important items as Personal Protective Equipment, "PPE", and exemption from quarantine orders such as today, and potential for first-available vaccines. This is the same level of priority for first responders and health care professionals.

Today's Executive Order by Gov. Holcomb was provided without advance knowledge; therefore, we have been waiting to be provided the official order for review, counsel, and our questions to be answered.

Beginning 11:59 pm on tomorrow, Tuesday, March 24, 2020 thru minimally 11:59 pm on Monday, April 6, 2020 all funeral events of any kind are to be LIMITED to no more than 10 people in assembly at any one time in location with all social distancing requirements in observance.

While the Executive Order provided is important in its entirety, please give special attention to the following:

Items No. 2 on page 2 which gives the duration of this order;

Item No. 5, page 3-prohibited activities-you are exempt as an essential business from prohibition therefore able to have a no-more-than-10 assembly; this includes all functions under your direction (employees are included in the 10)

Item No. 8, page 4- High Risk and Vulnerable

Item No. 14, page 5 that defines an essential business, along with the official essential business inclusion on page 8 under letter "x"

Item No. 15, page 8 that sets expectation of minimal operations for your business

Item No. 17, page 9 that further defines Social Distancing and the expectation for the business in action to prevent spread of virus

Item 19, page 9 Enforcement of this Order

Item 20, page 9 and 10 of this Order-Info about COVID 19

Please provide all the employees of your firm a letter for them to carry with them as they travel that identifies their essential function along with a copy of the CISA memorandum (included).

Please be proactive in working with all the facilities in your area in procedural adjustments necessary for the coming days on first call transfers.

Think of manners to use technology to minimize exposure and contamination for all-the public, employees, and your own individual families.

While the expectations of the health departments are to be accessible for vital function, please check with your local health departments for restrictions or changes in normal procedures.

We have asked the State Department of Health to stress to care providers the need for timely death certificate attention, especially with circumstances as they are.

While this is a challenging time, it is also temporary. There will be difficult moments, challenges unexpected, possible delays, but also many opportunities to further cement our expert place and cultural authority as part of the solution in handling COVID-19.

IFDA administrative offices are NOT EXEMPT from this Order, but we have created an infrastructure as an office to serve you remotely. After tomorrow at 4pm until 8 am April 7, 2020, please leave a voicemail at 317-846-2448 if you call or you may email andy@infda.org with your needs. We will be working normal days, but from home.

There will be regular communication through the regular channels daily and in a timely manner.

God bless you for the work you do, for the people you do it for, and please be safe as we work through this difficult time together.