

Occupational Reform Board Survey  
Chair, Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming

1. The public purpose and assumptions that underlie the creation of the license?

This license was started as a means to protect the public consumer by monitoring the actions of those practicing in the funeral business and to ensure that health and sanitation standards as far as the disposition of the deceased, were being adhered to. It gave practitioners guidelines to follow assuring that all consumers received best practices and standards established by others in the profession. It protects the consumer from unfair actions by funeral professionals by providing written protocols for how a funeral director should provide services when caring for a deceased individual. It also gave funeral professionals standards to hold all licensees to, creating accountability to the profession. It reassures the public, that the licensee has met and proven that he/she meets the qualifications and provides service as defined by other funeral professionals. Proper sanitation procedures were also developed and still today, those procedures remains a high protocol to follow.

2. A statement from YOUR point of view about the effectiveness of the regulations for this profession?

Today, more than ever it is crucial for the public to have confidence that their deceased loved one will be properly and professional cared for. With the rise in the number of cremations (an irreversible process), dysfunctional families, federal rules and regulations, funeral professionals have to be properly trained and educated to perform their duties. The recent Covid pandemic has reinforced the need for sanitation, disinfection and proper disposition of the deceased. With rules and regulations, the consumer would have written expectations of the services they should receive and a path to restitution if they don't. Currently some of the educational requirements are archaic and need to be revised. Less chemistry (required when funeral directors mixed/made their own embalming chemicals – no longer practiced) and more ethics, business law and sociology is needed.

3. What the harm may be if the occupation is no longer licensed, certified, or regulated?

Consumers will not be protected by the professional protocols. Currently, wrongful cremations are rare, but if anyone can provide them, the opportunity for the wrong remains being cremated could rise if the current rules and regulations don't exist. Consumers would have greater difficulty proving liability for malpractice if there were no guidelines or protocols to reference. The quality, character and ethics of the practitioner could diminish if there were no guidelines to follow.. Proper sanitation and disposition needs could be overlooked as a means to lower the expenses of the practitioner with no repercussions.