

Chavez Funeral Home

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NM Board Regulation and Licensing Department
NM Board of Funeral Services

Dear Sirs;

Please accept this letter as my formal opposition to the following proposed rule changes. I am unable to appear in person or by zoom. I am working a funeral service on Friday.

Owning and operating our firms in rural New Mexico, we must continue to adhere to the minimal standards set forth in the existing statutes because of the many special circumstances we face in the outlying areas. Those operating in or near larger cities may not realize the challenges we face daily in the rural areas.

- Changes to NM Statute 16.64.4.9 (A 1,2,3)

These changes may suite someone planning to open a quick stop funeral home in every community. While it may be a business plan for someone, it will degrade the existing funeral homes already serving the communities, especially having negative effects to those in the outlying areas. The existing rules have been considered and implemented over many years.

There is a valid reason for the minimal Chapel accommodations and a very valid reason for the Preparation Room to have the proper instruments and equipment listed. Will a garage with a garden hose, two saw horses and a sheet of plywood work as a proper prep room?

Botton line; A full operational prep room with the minimal necessary items currently listed cannot be done away with. I feel there are no exceptions. Please reconsider these changes.

Perhaps, the casket display room size and requirements could be reviewed for more options.

Changes to NM Statutes

16.64.4.10 (A 1,2,3 B 1,2)

There are funeral homes that operate on the New Mexico and Texas borders that are operated by a single company. These NM and Texas licensed directors are licensed professional staff. It seems unlawful to deny a person legally licensed, to work in New Mexico, due to the state line. The use of specific mileage from location to location makes better sense and builds stronger security and response time should it become necessary. I feel there needs to be a set reasonable distance in which an FSP can respond in the event of an emergency with a deceased, the facility or a family in need.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I know the New Mexico Board of Funeral Service has been working hard and diligently through the Statutes to find more clarity and function in the way things were written and there are many positive things we can take away from this experience.

With Kind Regards,

Juan Chavez, Proprietor- Chavez Funeral Homes