



3805 Delk Drive

RLD NM Funeral Board
2550 Cerillos Road
Santa Fe, NM 87505

To whom it may concern,

I have looked in to the proposed changes, 16.64.4 NMAC Requirements for Establishments and Crematories, and I am concerned about the proposed changes. The first item, a chapel/room specifically used for gatherings. I believe that the chapel or gathering space should have a defined amount of space. Any one could place 60 chairs in a room and call it a chapel, but we need to keep it at definite size. During the Covid pandemic, ample space was need and required to conduct services. Public safety was the main issue. Cutting down on a required size is, I believe, a public hazard. I believe at least 600 square feet is substantial enough to keep the public safe.

As for the casket display room, I believe that a certain number of caskets should be displayed. Viewing a casket on a computer screen is not acceptable to many people. Most people want to see and touch a casket. The detail and construction. Twelve caskets on a display room floor is doable. A funeral home is a funeral home; caskets are a vital part of the business. Computer screens and casket corners are already being used at some funeral homes. In our rural community we are several hundred miles from the nearest warehouse. Caskets need to be available.

The proposed change to the preparation room is something that cannot be changed. No requirement on the size of a prep room is unacceptable. A prep room is probably the most important room in the funeral home. By having no size requirement, you run the risk of no room to work. A broom closet can be your "prep room". The instrument to preform the embalming procedure requires very specific instruments. By not requiring these instruments, how can the procedure be accomplished. We are there to disinfect bodies for loved ones as well an contain any contagious disease. That's what we are trained for. To care for the bodies and ensure public safety. Every thing that was struck out is a necessity. All these items are needed to ensure the embalming process is completed in a professional manner.

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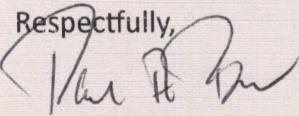


In regards to 16.64.4.10 Licensee in charge, one Licensed funeral service practitioner to oversee funeral homes throughout the state is ridiculous. How can a FSP oversee a funeral home run by interns hundreds of miles away. Should problems arise in the embalming room, with families, on services, how can you justify having the FSP correcting the problem from another town or city. By doing this how can an intern have his or her direct supervision take place with no FSP present. I believe the 50 miles and 90 minutes are a reasonable solution.

With 16.64.6.8 The Board should be required to maintain a list of approved continuing education opportunities. The board approves which programs are acceptable.

To me it seems larger funeral home corporations/companies are trying to cut down on spending, cutting corners where they can and increase profits. No regards to rules and regulations that were put in place for a reason, the safety and well-being of the public.

I am totally against all of the proposed changes and requesting a vote of "NO" on the proposed changes.

Respectfully,
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Baca".

Paul A Baca FSP 812