

645—100.6(156) Preparation and embalming activities.

100.6(1) The funeral director shall perform the following duties prior to and during embalming according to commonly accepted industry standards.

a. Permission for embalming. If permission to embalm cannot be obtained after a diligent attempt to contact the authorized person, the funeral director may proceed with the embalming without the permission of the authorized person.

b. If the funeral director has knowledge that the decedent died of a reportable communicable disease, the human remains shall be embalmed without the permission of the authorized person, unless cremation is performed within 48 hours after death.

c. Embalming shall be done entirely in private. No one except the funeral director, intern, immediate family, or student shall be allowed in the preparation room without the written permission of the authorized person. A student must be under the direct physical supervision of the funeral director and currently enrolled and attending a program of mortuary science which is recognized by the board to be allowed in the preparation room during the embalming without written permission.

d. The human remains shall be properly covered at all times.

e. Conduct a preembalming case analysis of the human remains. Recognize the potential chemical effects on the body and select the proper embalming chemicals based upon the analysis.

f. Position the human remains on the preparation table and pose the facial features.

g. Select points of drainage and injection, and raise the necessary vessels.

h. Embalming shall include arterial and cavity injection of embalming chemicals. If the condition of the human remains does not allow arterial and cavity injection of embalming chemicals, topical embalming, using appropriate chemicals and procedures, shall be performed.

i. Once the arterial and cavity injection of the embalming chemicals is complete, evaluate the distribution of the embalming chemicals and perform treatment for discoloration, vascular difficulties, decomposition, dehydration, purge and close any incisions.

100.6(2) Reportable communicable diseases. For the purpose of the rules under this chapter, the diseases listed in 641—paragraph 1.3(1)“a” are classified as communicable and reportable in Iowa. Refer to this paragraph for a current list of these diseases.

100.6(3) Postembalming activities. The funeral director shall perform the following duties at the conclusion of the embalming activities if necessary.

a. Pack or otherwise secure all body orifices with material which will absorb and retain all secretions.

b. Apply chemicals topically and perform hypodermic treatments.

c. Bathe, disinfect and reposition the human remains.

d. Clean and disinfect the embalming instruments, equipment and preparation room.

e. Perform any restorative treatments.

f. Select and apply the appropriate cosmetic treatments.

g. Prepare the human remains for viewing.

100.6(4) Care of the unembalmed human remains.

a. When death is not attributed to a reportable communicable disease, embalming may be omitted provided that interment or cremation is performed within 48 hours after death or within 24 hours of taking custody if the human remains were previously in the custody of others, whichever is longer.

b. When death is attributed to a reportable communicable disease, embalming may be omitted provided that cremation is performed within 48 hours after death. In such cases, the human remains shall be immediately topically disinfected, placed in a container that will control odor and prevent the leakage of body fluids and shall only be transported to the crematory by the funeral director or intern.

c. If viewing of the unembalmed human remains is requested, the human remains shall be topically disinfected and all body orifices shall be packed or otherwise secured with material which will absorb and retain all secretions. No public viewing will be allowed of an unembalmed decedent who has died of a reportable communicable disease, but private viewing is permissible at the discretion of the funeral director.