

481—900.6(156) Preparation and embalming activities.

900.6(1) The funeral director will perform the following duties prior to and during embalming according to commonly accepted industry standards.

a. Obtain authorization for embalming from an authorized person. If permission to embalm cannot be obtained from the authorized person, the funeral director may proceed with the embalming if necessary to comply with subrule 900.6(3).

b. Embalm entirely in private. No one except the funeral director, intern, immediate family, or student will 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 that is recognized by the board to be allowed in the preparation room without written permission during the embalming.

c. Keep the human remains properly covered at all times.

d. 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.

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

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

g. Embalm by 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, will be performed.

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

900.6(2) Postembalming activities. The funeral director will perform the following duties at the conclusion of the embalming activities if necessary.

a. Pack or otherwise secure all body orifices with material that 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.

900.6(3) Care of the unembalmed human remains.

a. Embalming may be omitted provided that interment or cremation is performed within 72 hours after death or within 24 hours of taking custody if a human remains was previously in the custody of others, whichever is longer.

b. If refrigeration is utilized, embalming or final disposition may be extended up to 72 hours longer than the maximum period provided in paragraph 100.6(3) “a.” The body must be kept between 38 and 42 degrees Fahrenheit.

c. If viewing of the unembalmed human remains is requested, the human remains will be topically disinfected and all body orifices will be packed or otherwise secured with material that will absorb and retain all secretions.

d. 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, shall be 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.

e. 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 that 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.

[ARC 7812C, IAB 4/17/24, effective 5/22/24; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 9/18/24; ARC 0466D, IAB 8/5/26, effective 9/9/26]