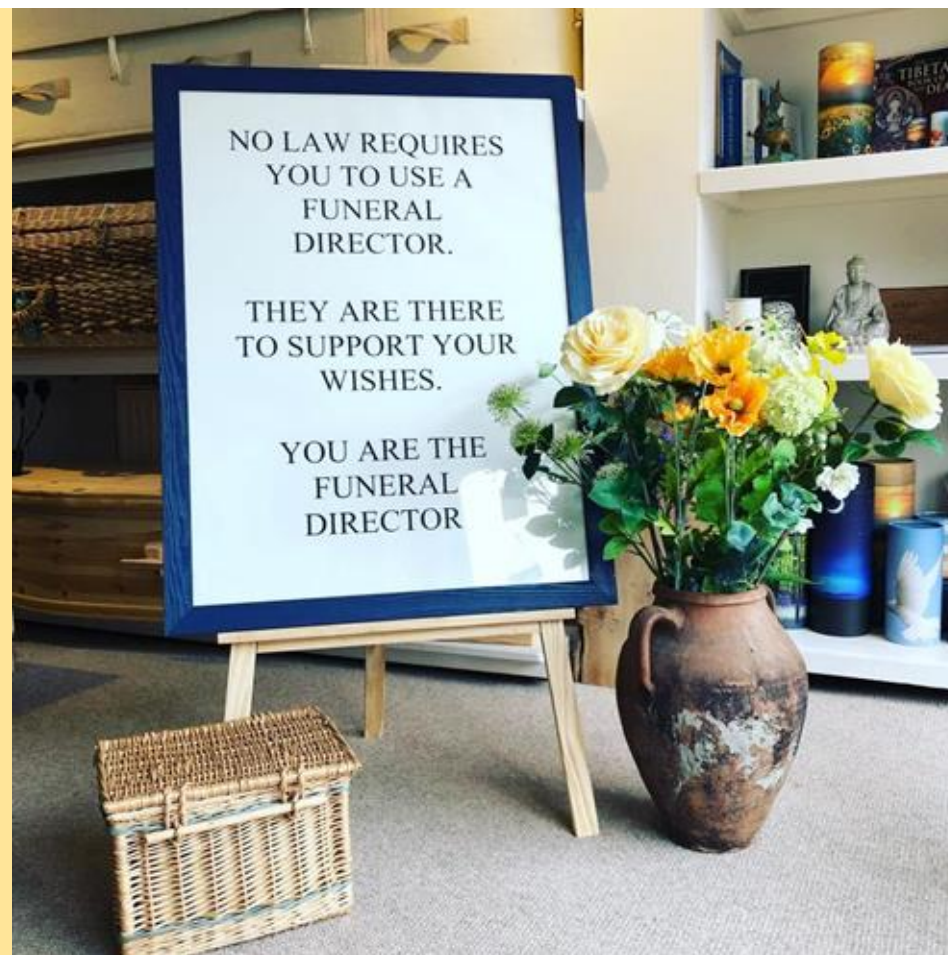


*Empowering  
Clients  
with Updated  
Funeral Resource  
Information*



OREGON HOSPICE &  
PALLIATIVE CARE  
ASSOCIATION

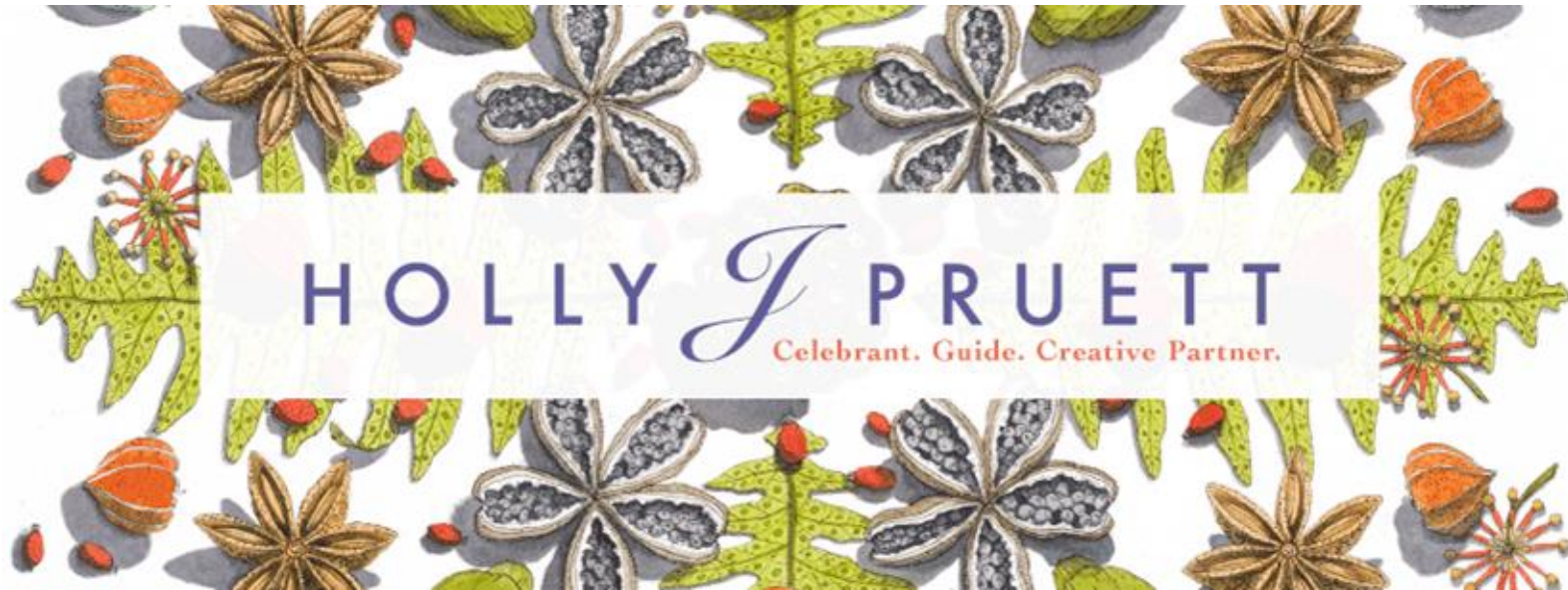


the annual regulatory conference of the OHPCA & WSHPCO

**SPRING INTENSIVE: REGULATORY UPDATE**

*Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel – Portland OR* **May 7-8, 2026**





[www.hollyjpruett.com](http://www.hollyjpruett.com)

Life-Cycle Celebrant

Home Funeral Guide & Death Doula

6-Part *Befriending Mortality* Classes

# *Empowering Clients with Updated Funeral Resource Information*

## **Did you know?**

Oregonians & Washingtonians are **not required** to purchase the services of a funeral home.

Family-driven after-death care can be an empowering part of the care continuum.

This session introduces non-commercial public information tools for hospice & palliative care staff and their clients.

Participants will:

- be able to identify and correct 3 common misconceptions about after-death care
- understand how hospice can empower clients with non-commercial information on funeral rights and resources
- be able to find and share accurate information on funeral resources

# Oregon Funeral Resources & Education

HOW TO LEARN MORE STORIES BLOG CONTACT

- GET HELP NOW
- LEARN THE LAW
- HAVE A HOME FUNERAL
- PERFORM BODY CARE
- COMPLETE PAPERWORK
- ARRANGE DISPOSITION
- TRANSPORT THE DEAD
- CREATE CEREMONY
- GO OUT GREENER
- PAY FOR A FUNERAL
- WORK WITH PROFESSIONALS

[www.oregonfuneral.org](http://www.oregonfuneral.org)



# Washington Funeral Resources & Education

HOME HOW TO LEARN MORE READ STORIES BLOG

- GET HELP NOW
- LEARN THE LAW
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[www.washingtonfuneral.org](http://www.washingtonfuneral.org)



*“A good resource for families as well as investigators. Many people out there are just legitimately unaware of this option that families have.”*  
— Oregon Chief Medical Examiner Dr Sean Hurst

*“Even after 33 years as a nurse in Oregon, mostly in rural and underserved settings, I was unaware that there is no legal requirement in the state to use a funeral home.”*  
— Monica Dostal, RN, MS, FNP-retired

“Death DIY”

[vimeo.com/103461308](https://vimeo.com/103461308)



# *What is a “home funeral”?*

- A noncommercial, family-centered response to death that
  - involves the family and its social community in the care and preparation of the deceased for disposition (e.g. burial or cremation)
  - **and/or** in planning and carrying out related rituals or ceremonies
  - **and/or** in the disposition itself
- **May** occur entirely within the family home **or may not**
- Differentiated from the institutional funeral by
  - minimal, noninvasive care and preparation of the deceased’s body
  - reliance on the family’s own social networks for assistance and support
  - relative **or** total absence of commercial funeral providers

*From “Undertaken With Love: A Home Funeral Guide for Congregations and Families” by Holly Stevens & Donna Belk*

# *Have you ever...*

- Spent time with a deceased body (sometimes called a wake, vigil, or viewing)
- Bathed or dressed a deceased body
- Kept a deceased body at home for a time after death
- Transported a deceased body
- Made direct arrangements for final disposition (cremation/ burial) without a funeral home's assistance
- Created a ceremony around a death without a funeral home's assistance
- Filed the paperwork (notification of death, death certificate)
- Attended/ participated in a "home funeral"

# Skills you already have...

## Skills you already have to care for your own dead

8/7/2022

by Keelia Carver

One of the things I like best when talking to people about caring for their own dead is discussing **what you are actually paying for** when you hire a funeral home's services.

Because it can be hard to understand what you are actually paying for when you hire a funeral director (it certainly was for me!), it can help to break the list of tasks down and think about specific skills that you probably already have. It makes it possible to say "I choose to do this task." Or "I don't want to do this task, I'd rather hire it out." Similar to when you hire a hair dresser, or tax preparer.



*The One Washcloth Project helps families recognize that small things - like bathing a loved ones hands after death - can be done simply and have great meaning*

- Have you helped someone bathe and dress? Have you changed diapers? Helped with toileting tasks for someone bigger/older than a baby?
- Can you drive a minivan, SUV or pickup truck? Do you already own a bigger vehicle or have a friend who does?
- Have you filled out government paperwork at some point? Have you had to be polite and persistent on the phone?
- Have you ever planned a party or event?



# In Memory of Max

*“I am compelled to tell this story. I hope with all my heart that this information about caring for your own dead will reach those who need to know it. I hope that you get the chance that I was denied, to lay with your dearly departed’s body in the privacy of your own home, keening until your voice is gone. Spending those last hours with that body that you hugged and kissed, talked to and laughed with.”*

**—Keelia Carver, Max’s mother**



# Expanding Awareness of Families' Rights

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*“This will be a good resource for families as well as investigators. Many people out there are just legitimately unaware of this option that families have. We will continue to present this topic in our yearly death investigator course to hopefully minimize the chances of future miscommunication about families’ rights.”*

Sean Hurst, MD, Oregon Chief Medical Examiner



# Why Does This Matter?

---

- Cost
- Reducing carbon footprint
- Maintaining control
- Religious, cultural, or spiritual beliefs
- Regional/ cultural preference for DIY
- Continuity of relationships
- Active grieving, communal mourning
- *Each person's reason will be different*

# *True or False?*

The majority of states require the use of a funeral director to handle after-death care

# False

The majority of states **do not** require the use of a funeral director to handle after-death care



## Quick Guide to Legal Requirements for Home Funerals in Your State

The following information was researched and developed by Lee Webster, 2015, 2020. Excerpt from *Restoring Families Rights to Choose*.

**Keeping or bringing a loved one home after death is legal in every state** for bathing, dressing, private viewing, and ceremony as the family chooses. Every state recognizes the next-of-kin's custody and control of the body that allows the opportunity to hold a home vigil. Religious observations, family gatherings, memorials, and private events are not under the jurisdiction of the State or professionals in the funeral industry, who have no medico-legal authority unless it is transferred to them when they are paid for service.

## On This Page

- *State by State statutes and regulations*
- *See below for a summary of what states require specific things, such as embalming and funeral director supervision*

[www.nhfuneral.org/state\\_home\\_funeral\\_requirements](http://www.nhfuneral.org/state_home_funeral_requirements)

# States That Restrict Home Funeral Autonomy for Families

	FD sign, certify, or file death certificate	FDs must perform body removal or transport	Denies the rights of next of kin to perform any duties beyond home care	Only FDs are issued burial/transit permits	Only FDs and Medical Examiners can issue burial/transit permits	FDs must supervise final disposition
<i>Connecticut</i>						
<i>Florida</i>						
<i>Illinois</i>						
<i>Iowa</i>						
<i>Indiana</i>						
<i>Louisiana</i>						
<i>New York</i>						
<i>Michigan</i>						
<i>Nebraska</i>						
<i>New Jersey</i>						

Courtesy of Lee Webster, New Hampshire Funeral Resources, Education & Advocacy (NHFREA)

## *True or False?*

A family member could be charged with practicing as a funeral director without a license if they provide after-death care

# *False*

The law in Oregon & Washington affirms the rights of families to provide after-death care

The legal term in Oregon is “**person acting as a funeral service practitioner,**” defined in ORS 432.005 as “a person other than a funeral service practitioner licensed under ORS 692.045, including but not limited to a relative, friend, or other interested party, who performs the duties of a funeral service practitioner **without payment.**”

In Washington this is called “**acting as their own funeral director.**”

“A family may act as their own funeral director when they choose not to use funeral director services and the person had a natural death. Natural deaths are not due to external causes, such as injury or poisoning, and not under the jurisdiction of a medical examiner or coroner.” (DOH 422-218 July 2024)

# *True or False?*

All deaths must be reported through the  
Electronic Death Registration System

# False

Not all deaths must be reported through EDRS  
This requirement applies only to funeral directors



DOH 422-218 July 2024

## Families Acting as Funeral Directors

A family may act as their own funeral director when they choose not to use funeral director services and the person had a natural death. Natural deaths are not due to external causes, such as injury or poisoning, and not under the jurisdiction of a medical examiner or coroner. If the family chooses to act as their own funeral director, they must complete the report of death within five (5) calendar days of the date of death:

1. Get a Washington State Report of Death, form number DOH 422-024 July 2024, from the vital records office in the county where the death occurred.
2. Get the paper report of death filled out and signed.
3. Return the completed report of death to the vital records office in the county where the death occurred.
4. Get a burial transit permit from the vital records office in the county where the death occurred.

**Important note: If the family uses a funeral home with funeral director services, the funeral director must electronically file the report of death using WHALES. The family cannot use the paper process.**



## House Bill 3127 Frequently Asked Questions for Funeral Directors

Q: What is House Bill 3127 (HB 3127)?

A: HB 3127 requires that death records be completed electronically using the state's system called OVERS.

Q: What is the effective date for HB 3127?

A: Death records must be entered using OVERS starting January 1, 2026.

Q: Are there any exceptions to the requirement that death records be completed using OVERS?

A: Yes, the exceptions are:

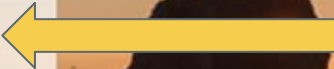
- If a 2025 death record needs to be dropped to paper and was not dropped to paper by December 31, 2025.
- If a 2025 paper death record needs to be re-dropped to paper, or if a new certifier is needed, and the certifier does not have an active OVERS account.
- Out-of-state medical certifiers exception: If a medical certifier is from out-of-state who rarely certifies death records, then a drop to paper record can be requested.
- Individuals completing a paper death record who are acting as a funeral service practitioner. These are often called home burials and are usually handled by the state.

# Oregon Funeral Resources & Education

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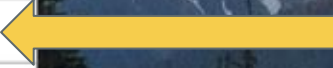


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[www.washingtonfuneral.org](http://www.washingtonfuneral.org)





DOH 422-218 July 2024

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127.  
Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or  
email [doh.information@doh.wa.gov](mailto:doh.information@doh.wa.gov).

## Families Acting as Funeral Directors

A family may act as their own funeral director when they choose not to use funeral director services and the person had a natural death. Natural deaths are not due to external causes, such as injury or poisoning, and not under the jurisdiction of a medical examiner or coroner. If the family chooses to act as their own funeral director, they must complete the report of death within five (5) calendar days of the date of death:

1. Get a Washington State Report of Death, form number DOH 422-024 July 2024, from the vital records office in the county where the death occurred.
2. Get the paper report of death filled out and signed.
3. Return the completed report of death to the vital records office in the county where the death occurred.
4. Get a burial transit permit from the vital records office in the county where the death occurred.

**Important note: If the family uses a funeral home with funeral director services, the funeral director must electronically file the report of death using WHALES. The family cannot use the paper process.**

### Demographics

Immediate family fills out the demographic section of the report. Immediate family means spouse, parents, children, grandparents, and siblings.

- If the immediate family does not know or the information does not apply, enter Unknown or N/A.
- **Name and Complete Address of Funeral Facility** - enter the full name and address of the immediate family member signing as the funeral director.
- **Funeral Director Signature** - this should be the signature of the person identified as the funeral facility.

### Cause of Death

The medical certifier fills out manner and cause of death. Medical certifier means an individual named in RCW 70.58A.010(25). The family identifies the medical certifier and gives them the paper report of death to fill out.

- **Cause of death** should contain a chain of events that directly caused the death with the associated intervals between onset and death in sections 34. a., b., c., and d.
- **Injury information** - this should be blank. If the medical certifier added injury information, the medical certifier must file the record electronically using WHALES.
- **Certifying physician** - this should be the signature of the medical certifier filling out the manner and cause of death.

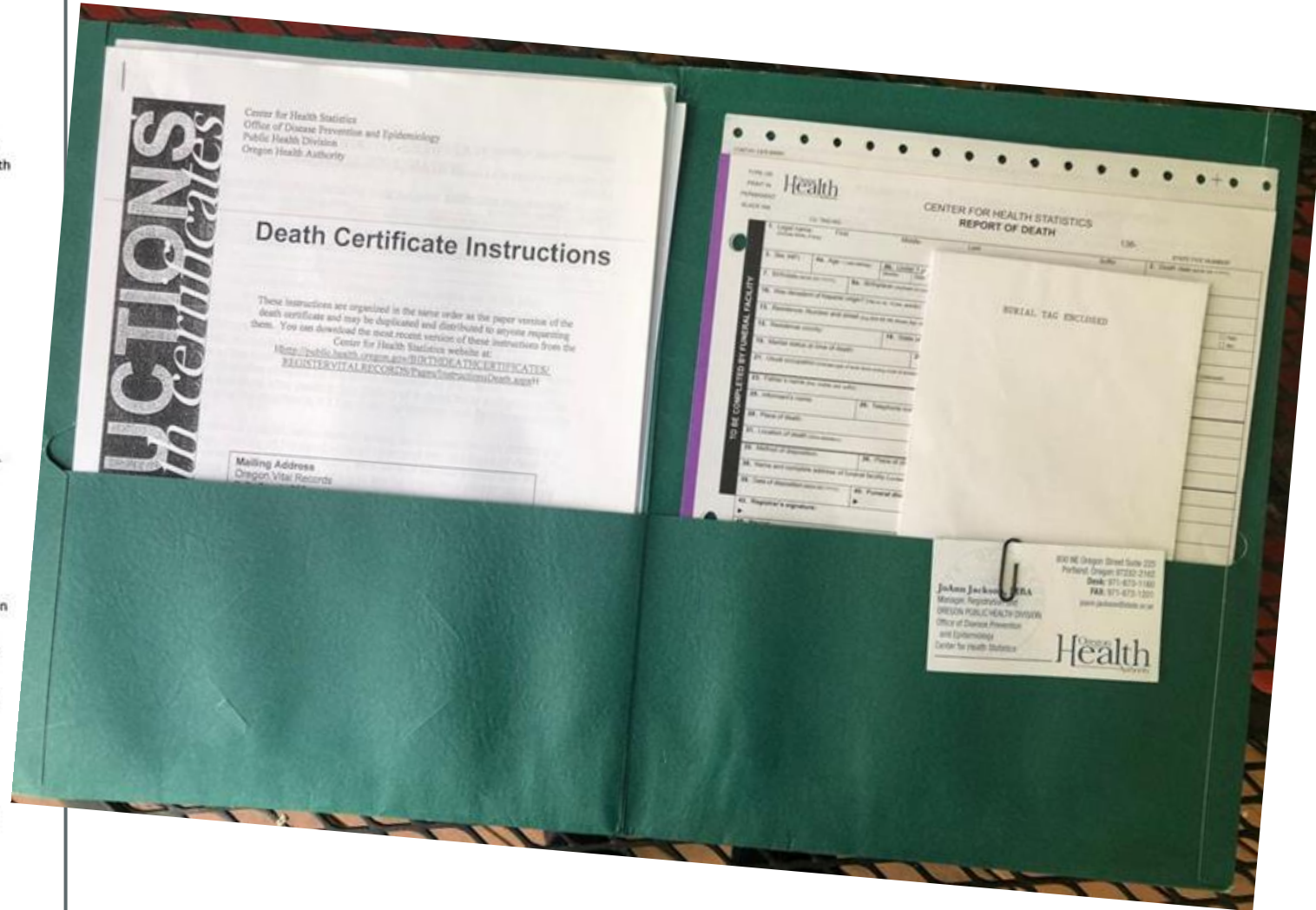
**Important note: If the manner of death is anything other than natural or under the jurisdiction of a medical examiner or coroner, the medical examiner or coroner must electronically file the report of death using WHALES. The family cannot use the paper process.**

### File the Paper Report of Death

The family returns the filled out and signed report of death to the county vital records office where the death occurred within five (5) calendar days of the date of death. The county vital records office will:

- File the report of death;
- Issue a burial transit permit to the family for final disposition; and
- Send the filed report of death to the State Vital Records Office for permanent registration.

The family can purchase the death certificate from the State Vital Records Office after registration, go online to [Ordering a Death Record](#) | Washington State Department of Health.



# *True or False?*

What's referred to as a “home funeral” is the same as, or typically includes, a home burial.

# False

What's referred to as a "home funeral" is **not** the same as a home burial.

Burial at home is allowed, with restrictions, in both OR & WA. This may or may not be done with full assistance of a professional funeral director. **Most families** exercising their funeral rights to provide family-led after-death care are **not doing a home burial.**

## Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board

Regulating Death Care Facilities and Practitioners in Oregon

### Home Burial Packet

If a person has recently died, and the family making arrangements does not want to engage the services of a licensed funeral director, they may complete the arrangements themselves. Any person in Oregon can perform the duties of a funeral service practitioner without a license as long as they are not accepting payment for these services. Part of their responsibility when doing this is filing a death record (often called a death certificate.) This is a legal requirement. The Oregon Health Authority can assist you with completing this process. The documents required are often referred to as a "Home Burial Packet," although it is important to note that the burial does not need to take place at home- arrangements can be made at a cemetery.



### RELEASE OF BODY

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
release of my family member's body to me.

I understand that Oregon State Law requires that I provide the following information:

Name of deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

My address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of death: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of release of body: \_\_\_\_\_

**Release for Home Burial:** [Note from Oregon Funeral Resources & Education: we have requested a clarification to this header to confirm this release is applicable to all families, not just those burying at home.]

By making this request, I understand that I am responsible for my family member's body, and that I will comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations that apply to the handling, transport, and disposition of human remains.

On behalf of myself and the family members of my loved one, I release St. Charles Health System, Inc. and its employees and agents from any and all liability associated with the release of my family member's body to me.

# *True or False?*

The “**24 hour rule**” specifies the time a family can keep a body after death.

A family **must cool a body** kept at home to a certain temperature.

A hospital or care facility can only **release a body** to a funeral home.

# False

The “24 hour rule” **does not apply to** the time a family can keep a body after death. A family **is not required to** cool a body at home. **These misconceptions confuse professional requirements with family-led care.**

A hospital or care facility **can release a decedent** to the family, not just a funeral home. **This is a matter of facility policy, not law.**

- There is no time limit in Oregon or Washington law for a body to lie at home in honor; one to three days is common.
- Cooling the body to slow decomposition is a matter of preference and is not regulated when the family acts as the funeral service practitioner. It's recommended to reduce the temperature in the room and use dry ice or a refreezable product like Techni Ice™ .
- It is common for hospital and care facilities to have body release policies that violate family rights under state law. It's easier to hire a funeral director to secure release than to enlist a lawyer.

# *Empowering staff to better serve families*

**“How can we assist you with funeral plans?”**

rather than

“Which funeral home should we call?”

Provide the non-commercial resources [OregonFuneral.org](https://OregonFuneral.org) & [WashingtonFuneral.org](https://WashingtonFuneral.org) on listings of local funeral homes & other materials

## **Respecting Families’ Funeral Rights**

- **Revise policies** to reflect the intent of the law in supporting families who choose to care for their own dead, including body release policies
- Offer **in-service staff trainings** to equip staff with accurate information on family rights and introduce family-friendly policies

## Funeral Homes

Please call Providence Portland Medical Center Admitting with your funeral home selection: 503-215-6440.

Portland, Gresham and Happy Valley – Oregon			
Advantage Gateway	1515 NE 106th Ave.	Portland, OR 97220	503-256-0606
Crown Memorial Center	832 NE Broadway	Portland, OR 97232	503-783-3393
Finley's Sunset Hills Mortuary	6801 SW Sunset Highway	Portland, OR 97225	503-292-6654
Heritage Memorial	6705 SE 14th Ave.	Portland, OR 97202	503-231-1400
Holman's Funeral Service	2610 SE Hawthorne Blvd.	Portland, OR 97214	503-232-5131
Hustad Funeral Home	7232 North Richmond Ave.	Portland, OR 97203	503-286-9663
Lincoln Memorial Park and Funeral Home	11801 SE Mt. Scott Blvd.	Portland, OR 97086	503-771-1117
Mt. Scott Funeral Home	4205 SE 59th Ave.	Portland, OR 97206	503-771-1171
Omega Funeral & Cremation Service	223 SE 122nd Ave.	Portland, OR 97233	503-231-6030
River View Cemetery Funeral Home	8421 SW Macadam Ave.	Portland, OR 97219	503-246-6488
Riverview Abby Funeral Home	0319 SW Taylors Ferry Rd.	Portland, OR 97219	503-244-7577
Rose City Cemetery & Funeral Home	5625 NE Fremont St.	Portland, OR 97213	503-281-3821
Ross Hollywood Chapel	4733 NE Thompson St.	Portland, OR 97213	503-281-1800
Skyline Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home	4101 NW Skyline Blvd.	Portland, OR 97229	503-292-6611
Wilhelm's Portland Memorial	6705 SE 14th Ave.	Portland, OR 97202	503-236-4141
Zeller Chapel of the Roses	2107 NE Broadway St.	Portland, OR 97232	503-287-1155
Affordable Funeral Alternatives	135 NW 1st Ave., Suite 2	Gresham, OR 97030	503-618-9396
Aftercare Cremation & Burial	1304 East Powell Blvd.	Gresham, OR 97030	503-760-3600
Bateman Carroll Funeral Home	520 West Powell Blvd.	Gresham, OR 97030	503-665-2128
Gresham Memorial Chapel	257 SE Roberts Ave.	Gresham, OR 97080	503-618-8176
Gethsemani Funeral Home	11666 SE Stevens Rd.	Happy Valley, OR 97086	503-659-1350
Neptune Society	11211 SE 82nd Ave., Suite N	Happy Valley, OR 97086	971-206-5000
Oregon Cremation	11667 SE Stevens Rd.	Happy Valley, OR 97086	503-235-3104
Sunnyside Little Chapel of the Chimes	11667 SE Stevens Rd.	Happy Valley, OR 97086	503-659-1184
VA Office of Decedent Affairs	VA Portland Medical Center	503-220-8262 x57021	
Online Business			
Solace	1-844-385-9489	support@solacecares.com	
Oregon Funeral Resources & Education			
<a href="http://www.oregonfuneral.org">www.oregonfuneral.org</a>			

## Funeral Homes and After Death Resources

The funeral homes listed have offices in these communities. Many funeral homes will be able to provide service wherever needed.

### BEND:

Autumn Funerals  
61555 Parrell Road | 541-318-0842

Baird Funeral Home  
2425 NE Tweet Place | 541-382-0903

Deschutes Memorial Chapel  
Gardens & Crematorium  
63875 N Highway 97 | 541-382-5592

Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home  
106 NW Irving Ave. | 541-382-2471

### REDMOND:

Autumn Funerals  
485 NW Larch Ave. | 541-504-9485

Redmond Memorial Chapel  
717 SW 6th St. | 541-548-3219

### MADRAS:

Bel-Air Colonial Funeral Home  
762 NE 10th St. | 541-475-2241

### PRINEVILLE:

Juniper Ridge Funeral Home  
678 N Main St. | 541-362-5606

Prineville Funeral Home  
199 NE 10th St. | 541-447-6459

Whispering Pines  
185 NE 4th St., Suite 103 | 541-416-9733

### BURNS:

La Follette  
332 W. Monroe St. | 541-573-2731

### JOHN DAY:

Driskill Memorial Chapel  
241 S. Canyon Blvd. | 541-575-0529

### LAPINE:

Baird Memorial Chapel  
16468 Finley Butte Road | 541-536-5104

### KLAMATH FALLS:

Davenport's Chapel of the Good Shepherd  
2680 Memorial Drive | 541-883-3458

O'Hair-Ward's Funeral Chapel  
515 Pine St. | 541-884-3456

Affordable Cremation Care  
1229 E. Main St. | 541-887-2888

### ADDITIONAL:

Neptune Cremation Service  
1-877-977-1222  
Neptune will contact their current local affiliate to carry out pre-arranged cremation and burial plans

Oregon Funeral Resources and Education

Family led after death care  
[www.oregonfuneral.org](http://www.oregonfuneral.org)





PATIENT LABEL

**RELEASE OF BODY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (please print your name), request the release of my family member's body from St. Charles Health System, Inc.

I understand that Oregon State Law requires that I provide the following information:

Name of deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

My address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of death: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of release of body: \_\_\_\_\_

**Release for Home Burial:**

- By making this request, I understand that I am responsible for my family member's body, and that I will comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations that apply to the handling, transport, and disposition of human remains.

On behalf of myself and the family members of my loved one, I release St. Charles Health System, Inc. and its employees and agents from any and all liability associated with the release of my family member's body to me.

Signature of person requesting release: \_\_\_\_\_ Date / Time: \_\_\_\_\_

# *Professional Resources*

## **PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION FLYERS**

- Medical Examiners
  - Hospice
  - Attending Physicians
  - First Responders
  - Hospital Staff & Administrators
  - Care Facility Staff & Administrators
  - State & County Vital Records
  - Law Enforcement
  - Funeral Directors
  - Cemetery & Crematory Operators
  - Clergy, Chaplains, Celebrants
- E-O-L Doulas can inform all, support family advocacy

**“You can be the one  
in the room to say,  
I think you can.”**

**— Keelia Carver**

*Washington Funeral  
Resources & Education*

[HOW TO](#) [LEARN MORE](#) [READ STORIES](#) [BLOG](#)



# *Presentation Resources*

**Oregon Funeral Resources & Education:**

[www.oregonfuneral.org](http://www.oregonfuneral.org)

**Washington Funeral Resources & Education:**

[www.washingtonfuneral.org](http://www.washingtonfuneral.org)

**Common Misconceptions:**

[www.oregonfuneral.org/blog/common-misconceptions](http://www.oregonfuneral.org/blog/common-misconceptions)

**State-by-State “Home Funeral” Requirements**

[www.nhfuneral.org/state\\_home\\_funeral\\_requirements](http://www.nhfuneral.org/state_home_funeral_requirements)

**Fact Sheets for Professionals–Oregon**

[www.oregonfuneral.org/for\\_professionals](http://www.oregonfuneral.org/for_professionals)

**Fact Sheets for Professionals– Washington:**


[www.washingtonfuneral.org/resources\\_for\\_professionals](http://www.washingtonfuneral.org/resources_for_professionals)

**LGBTQ Death Care: The “Appointment of Person” Form**

[www.oregonfuneral.org/blog/lgbtq-death-care-the-appointment-of-person-form](http://www.oregonfuneral.org/blog/lgbtq-death-care-the-appointment-of-person-form)

**Skills You Already Have**

[www.oregonfuneral.org/blog/skills-you-already-have-to-care-for-your-own-dead](http://www.oregonfuneral.org/blog/skills-you-already-have-to-care-for-your-own-dead)

A scenic landscape at sunset with a large white circle overlaying the left side containing text. The background shows rolling hills with sparse trees under a sky with vibrant orange and purple clouds.

# Empowering families and your community

---

*“Up until around 1900, when a death occurred, the tasks that are now performed by paid professionals were performed by the family. Most people today think that they are legally required to use a funeral home, which simply is not true. More and more families desire hands-on involvement, but simply don't know how to go about doing so. I am confident that this website will be a real blessing.”*

—**David Noble**, retired after five decades serving Oregon families as funeral director, cemetery owner/ operator

# Advance Directive

Put feathers in my hair  
braided up in dollar store pomade  
Let my nieces dress me, sliding limbs into  
ribbon skirts and satin shirts  
Wrap me in Buffalo hide painted by the  
story of our lives. paint my eyes  
Place your picture in my hands so I can  
carry you with me into the earth. just as I  
carried you within me until your birth  
Sit with me for three days surrounded by  
bandanas and family. Sit with me.  
And in that third day, sing me home.

abigail echo-hawk