

What is Funeral Directing and Embalming?

Funeral Directing is:

- (a) Counseling families or next of kin in regard to the conduct of a funeral service for a dead human body for burial, disposition, or cremation or directing or supervising burial, disposition, or cremation of dead human bodies. Cremation shall be considered as a final disposition of a dead human body the same as interment,
- (b) Providing for or maintaining a funeral establishment, or
- (c) The act of representing oneself as or using in connection with one's name the title of funeral director, mortician, or any other title implying that he or she is engaged in the business of funeral directing.

Embalming is: the practice of preparing a dead human body for burial or other final disposal by a licensed funeral director and embalmer or an apprentice, requesting and obtaining burial or removal permits, or assuming any of the other duties incident to the practice of embalming. Any person who publicly professes to be a funeral director and embalmer or an apprentice shall be deemed to be practicing embalming. The performance of the following acts shall also be deemed the practice of embalming:

- (a) The disinfection and preservation of dead human beings, entire or in part; and
- (b) The attempted disinfection and preservation thereof by the use or application of chemical substances, fluids, or gases ordinarily used, prepared, or intended for such purposes, either by outward application of such chemical substances, fluids, or gases on the body or by introducing them into the body, by vascular or hypodermic injection, or by direct introduction into the organs or cavities.

What are the License Requirements?

1. Complete 60 semester hours of college credit, which includes the following:
 - 6 semester hours of English;
 - 6 semester hours of Accounting;
 - 8 semester hours of Chemistry;
 - 12 semester hours of Biological Science **relating to the human body**;
 - 6 semester hours of Psychology or Counseling; and
 - 22 semester hours of electives.

These hours must be earned in addition and separately from a full course of instruction in a school of mortuary science.

2. Complete a full course of instruction (2-4 yrs) in an Accredited mortuary science school. (web site: www.nfda.org/careers/schools/index.html)
3. Complete 12 months of service as an apprentice under the supervision of a licensed funeral director and embalmer practicing in the State of Nebraska.
4. Have attained at least the age of 19.
5. Have good character and is a citizen of the U.S., an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to employment in the United States
6. Successfully pass the National Board examination for Funeral Service administered at accredited schools of mortuary science. The Nebraska Board does not administer this examination. Nebraska requires an average score of 75% or above.
7. Successfully pass the written jurisprudence and Vital statistics examinations administered by the Department. Nebraska requires a score of 75% or above on each examination.
8. Submit the appropriate applications and pay the licensure fees.

Conviction Reporting:

All applicants must list any felony or misdemeanor convictions, no matter where they occurred or how long ago they occurred. Failure to list convictions may result in denial of the license or discipline (such as a probationary license), as this can be viewed as misrepresentation of material facts. Remember, as the applicant, you are attesting to the fact that all statements on the application are true and complete.

The Department commonly finds that applicants fail to submit convictions that may have occurred when the individual was a minor. While this may have been several years ago or longer, by law, you are still required to disclose this information on your initial application for licensure. If the applicant is not sure if a ticket or arrest resulted in a misdemeanor or felony conviction, we suggest that you contact the court in the county where you were ticketed or arrested. Additionally, not all juvenile offenses are sealed; therefore, it's to your benefit to double check with the county court. The following provides just a small **sampling** of misdemeanor convictions:

- MIP
- DUI / DWI
- Controlled Substance
- Tobacco Use by Minor
- Shoplifting / Theft / Burglary
- Disturbing the Peace
- Assault
- Disorderly Conduct
- Reckless Driving
- Driving under Suspension / Revocation
- License Vehicle without Liability Insurance
- Fail to Appear in Court
- False Information
- Leave the Scene of an Accident
- Operator not Carrying License
- Unlawful Display of Plates/Renewal tabs
- Park Rule Violation / Curfew Violation
- Dog at Large
- Littering
- Bad Check

How many individuals hold licenses and how many establishments are in Nebraska?

The following numbers are as of 10/10:

413 - Funeral Directors/Embalmers
13 - Apprentices
177- Funeral Establishments
110 - Branch Establishments

Is a Funeral Establishment required to be licensed and Must you Work in an Establishment?

Yes, funeral establishments are required to be licensed and inspected by the Department of Health and Human Services, Licensure Unit.

A funeral establishment is a place of business situated at a specific street address or location devoted to the care and preparation of dead human bodies for burial, disposition, or cremation or to conducting or arranging funeral services for dead human bodies.

A branch establishment is a place of business situated at a specific street address or location which is a subsidiary of a licensed funeral establishment, which contains a casket display room, a viewing area, or an area for conducting funeral services, or all of them, and where any portion of the funeral service or arrangements for the disposition of a dead human body is conducted

In order for a funeral or branch establishment to be licensed, it must employ as its manager a licensed funeral director and embalmer who is responsible for all transactions conducted in the establishment. (The owner of an establishment is NOT required to be licensed as a funeral director and embalmer)

For More Information:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/pages/Funeral-Directing-and-Embalming.aspx>

OR
contact:

Licensure Unit
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The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is committed to affirmative action/equal employment opportunity and does not discriminate in delivering benefits or services.

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Nebraska LICENSING REQUIREMENTS



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Department of Health
and Human Services
Division of Public Health
Licensure Unit