



**To:** Weymouth Board of Zoning Appeals  
**From:** Dennis Keohane, Co-President  
**Date:** August 18, 2022  
**Re:** Funeral Home Operations Information

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At the public hearing on April 27, 2022, we received comments and questions from the Board regarding the daily operations of the funeral home at 809 Main Street, in Weymouth. For example, the Board inquired: (i) how long family and guests are typically at the site, (ii) how many staff are present for services, and (iii) whether different services can take place at the same time. In order to provide insight into the typical operations of the funeral home, we sought to give an overview of our existing operations within a written document. The below outlined operations represent the typical services provided by the funeral home. The funeral home also provides more limited services based upon individual needs and desires, such as cremation with no other services, offsite burial with no visiting hours, private services, etc. We are committed to providing the highest level of services to our community as we all adapt to changes in religious affiliations, cremation trends, and evolving expectations of comfort and distancing, and we will continue to serve our client families consistent with the exacting regulations and standards promulgated under 239 CMR 3.00.

The following is a summary of typical services of the funeral home, and how they normally operate.

#### **Visitations / Visiting Hours**

- To provide maximum comfort for families, visitations are limited to two families at any given time.
- In situations where a significantly larger group is anticipated, visitations are limited to one event at any given time.
- Family members are instructed to arrive 45 minutes prior to the published start time of a visitation.
- Family members typically leave 15 to 30 minutes after the published end time of a visitation. Once the last family member exits the parking lot, the parking lot lights are turned off.
- Two (2) funeral home attendants are assigned to a scheduled visitation to greet and offer guidance to visitors.
- When a large group is anticipated, with prior approval, the funeral home adds two attendants to direct overflow parking to the adjacent South Shore Health lot(s).
- In extraordinary situations (e.g., the service for a public official) when an exceptionally large group is anticipated, the funeral home arranges for offsite parking with a shuttle bus. With prior approval, this offsite parking is located at Weymouth High School or the St. Francis Xavier Church rectory lot.

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FUNERAL HOME  
Weymouth, MA  
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FUNERAL HOME  
Hingham, MA  
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- Events involving affiliation with a large organization (e.g., police, fire, motorcycle club, etc.) will be staged first at the front parking area adjacent to Main Street (Route 18).
- During large events, the visitor queue currently extends from the front door of the building down the front steps to the building, under the carport and down the stairs toward the front parking area. Upon the completion of the project, the large-event visitor queue will extend through both existing front rooms, through the new foyer and into the new chapel, significantly reducing the number of people waiting outside in the elements. Handicap/elderly entrance will be prioritized at the south entrance door.

#### **On-Site Funeral / Celebration of Life Service with Post-Service Cremation**

- Funeral / Celebration of Life Services are scheduled to occur one at a time; there are no concurrent funerals.
- Services are held in the morning (typically at 10:30 AM). The family is instructed to arrive 30 minutes prior to the service, and guests begin arriving 15 minutes prior to the service.
- The service is usually between 30 to 60 minutes.
- The funeral home assigns a team of three (3) attendants to oversee the event. They greet and offer direction to the family and their guests.
- Since there is no procession, there is no need to organize cars into a line. Guests Park themselves within the parking areas onsite.
- At the conclusion of the service, guests return to their cars intermittently after paying respects to the family which is extended over a period of time.

#### **On-Site Funeral / Celebration of Life Service with Burial to Follow**

- Funeral / Celebration of Life Services are scheduled to occur one at a time; there are no concurrent funerals.
- Funeral / Celebration of Life Services with a burial to follow are held in the morning (typically at 10:30 AM). The family is instructed to arrive 30 minutes prior to the service and guests begin arriving 15 minutes prior to the service.
- The service is usually between 30 to 60 minutes.
- The funeral home assigns a team of five (5) attendants to oversee the event. They greet and offer direction to the family and their guests.
- When a large group is anticipated, the funeral home adds two (2) additional attendants.
- Because there will be a procession following the service, the funeral home attendants greet guests under the front carport and offer to park their car in the procession queue.
- At the conclusion of the service, guests are instructed to return to their cars and wait for the procession to begin. The funeral home designates one (1) attendant to guide the cars as the procession begins to form.
- The procession is led by the hearse and often followed by a limousine. Traffic is stopped on Route 18 by either police, when a police escort is requested by the family, or a second funeral home attendant will stop the traffic on Route 18 as the procession exits the parking lot.
- The procession is subject to the requirements of Chapter 85, Section 14A of the General Laws.



### **Off-Site Funeral / Celebration of Life Service at a Church or Place of Worship**

- Funeral / Celebration of Life Services are scheduled to occur one at a time; there are no concurrent funerals.
- Gatherings at the funeral home prior to an off-site funeral /celebration of life service are typically held in the morning prior to a service at a place of worship. When a service is scheduled in a local place of worship, the family is instructed to arrive at the funeral home one (1) hour prior to the service, and the public is invited to attend 45 minutes before.
- The funeral home assigns a team of five (5) attendants to oversee the event. They greet and offer direction to the family and their guests.
- When a large group is anticipated, the funeral home adds two (2) additional attendants.
- Because there is a procession to the place of worship for the service, the funeral home attendants greet guests under the front carport and offer to park their car in the procession queue.
- After the funeral director offers direction to the group, the guests are instructed to return to their cars and wait for the procession to begin. The funeral home designates one (1) attendant to guide the cars as the procession begins to form.
- The procession is led by the hearse and often followed by a limousine. Traffic is stopped on Route 18 by either police, when a police escort is requested by the family, or a second funeral home attendant will stop the traffic on Route 18 as the procession exits the parking lot.
- The procession is subject to the requirements of Chapter 85, Section 14A of the General Laws.
- For local places of worship, the procession exits the parking lot 15 to 20 minutes prior to the beginning of the service to provide ample time for travel, parking and gathering at the church or place of worship.