

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CREMATION

1. RESPONSIBILITY

The Funeral Director shall observe the regulations of the Cremation Authority. The Funeral Director is responsible for the provision of sufficient bearers to convey the coffin from the hearse to the catafalque. When the coffin is in position on the catafalque or deposited in the rest room or Chapel of Rest at the Crematorium the responsibility of the Funeral Director towards it ceases and that of the Cremation Authority begins.

2. CONSTRUCTION OF THE COFFIN

The coffin must be made of a suitable material which, when placed in a cremator and subjected to the cremation process, is easily combustible and which does not emit smoke, give off toxic gas or leave any retardant smears or drips after final combustion. No metal furniture or fittings whatever shall be used on a coffin for cremation. Coffin handles should be free from unnecessary metal components. No metal of any kind shall be used in the manufacture of such coffin except as necessary for its safe construction and then only metal of a high ferrous content. Cross pieces must not be attached to the bottom of the coffin. If it is desired to strengthen the bottom of the coffin, wooden strips may be placed lengthways for this purpose. External coatings to a coffin must allow for smokeless combustion and the use of nitro-cellulose varnish, polyurethane, melamine and any products containing polyvinyl chloride (PVC) must not be used. Water based lacquer free from additives containing heavy metals may be used for coating the coffin or a suitable cloth may be used for covering a coffin. The exception to the foregoing is the use of polystyrene which is restricted to the coffin nameplate only and this must not exceed 90 grams in weight.

3. LINING OF THE COFFIN

The use of saw dust or cotton wool must be avoided. If lining of a coffin is necessary, this should be manufactured from polythene not exceeding 75 microns in thickness. Lead or zinc linings must not be used. The use of shredded paper within a coffin is not permitted.

4. SIZE AND WEIGHT OF THE COFFIN

Where the external dimensions of a coffin are likely to be or exceed length 81 inches (206cms); width 28 inches (71cms); depth 22 inches (56cms) the proper officer of the crematorium **must be given advance notice**. Where the total weight of the coffin is likely to exceed 20 stone (127kgs) the proper officer of the crematorium **must be given advance notice**

5. CLOTHING AND COFFIN CONTENT

In order to minimise the release of pollutants to air, it is recommended that clothing should be of natural fibres and that shoes or any material manufactured from PVC should not be included. Body adornments manufactured from copper should be removed as should any easily removable prostheses or casts of plaster or other material.

Additional items, particularly of glass or plastic, should not be placed within the coffin.

6. NOTICE OF CREMATION

The Funeral Director must observe the Cremation Authority's regulations regarding the length of notice to be given for a cremation and the times of the cremation, as agreed, must be strictly adhered to. All statutory and non statutory forms and certificates, as required by the Cremation Authority, must reach the crematorium office by the specified time.

7. CREMATION OF INFANTS

In cases where bereaved parents desire the cremation of an infant, they should be warned that there are occasions when no tangible remains are left after the cremation process has been completed. This is due to the cartilaginous nature of the bone structure .

If the warning is not given the parents may have been denied the choice of earth burial and thereby subjected to understandable distress.

8. CREMATED REMAINS

The utmost care should be taken when dealing with cremated remains. If the Funeral Director supplies an urn or casket remains it should be of sufficient internal dimension to provide a minimum of 200 cubic inches (3,280 cubic cms) and securely labelled. The container should be strong enough to resist breakage in transit.

The lid must fit tightly and the fastening should be strong enough to prevent the lid being forced open by distortion of the container through maltreatment in transit.

Declaration

I confirm that the coffin and its fittings relating to this cremation conforms to the above mentioned requirements

Signed.....Date.....