



Code of Ethics

The IFDA Code of Ethics is designed to address the obligations of the funeral professional in five key areas:

OBLIGATIONS TO THE FAMILY

OBLIGATIONS FOR THE CARE OF THE DECEDENT

OBLIGATIONS TO THE PUBLIC

OBLIGATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

OBLIGATIONS TO IFDA

Each area begins with an Ethical Principle that sets forth the goals and ideals of the profession. The Ethical Principle is followed by the applicable sections of the Code of Ethics which lists specific types of conduct that is either required or prohibited.

Ethical Principles are goals that every funeral professional should strive to achieve. They serve as the justification for the specific requirements of the Code of Ethics. Unlike the Ethical Principles, the Code of Ethics is binding upon IFDA members and violations may subject the member to disciplinary action in accordance with the IFDA Enforcement Procedures.

It is the duty of every IFDA Firm, Individual, Retired and Student Member to know and strictly adhere to the requirements of the Code of Ethics. For the protection of the families we serve, the decedents we care for, the profession we dedicate ourselves to, the communities in which we live, and the Association that represents us, the members of IFDA agree to abide by the Code of Ethics.

This Code of Ethics and associated Enforcement Procedures is intended to establish goals for members of IFDA, and does not create any enforceable standards for such members with respect to third parties. No person or entity, other than IFDA, acquires any rights or benefits with respect to this Code of Ethics, and no legal or other liability results from this Code of Ethics except between the member and IFDA.

I. SERVICE TO THE FAMILIES

Ethical Principle: Members have an ethical obligation to serve each family in a professional and caring manner, being respectful of their wishes and confidences, being honest and fair in all dealings with them.

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I – 1 Members shall provide funeral services to families without regard to religion, race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or disability.

I – 2 Members shall comply with all applicable federal or state laws or regulations relating to the prearrangement, prepayment or pre-financing of funeral services or merchandise.

I – 3 Members shall release the remains of deceased persons or the cremated remains of deceased persons to the custody of the person or entity who has the legal right to affect a release without requiring payment prior to the release.

I – 4 Members shall comply with the Federal Trade Commission's Funeral Industry Practices Regulation (the "Funeral Rule") and all applicable Indiana state consumer disclosure requirements.

I – 5 Members shall protect confidential information pertaining to the deceased or the family of the deceased from disclosure, except as required or authorized by law.

I – 6 Members shall carry out all aspects of the funeral service in a competent and respectful manner.

I – 7 Members shall properly account for and remit any monies, documents, or personal property of the client family.

I – 8 Members shall not engage in any unprofessional conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud or harm the families they serve in the course of providing professional services.

II. CARE OF THE DECEDENT

Ethical Principle: Members have an ethical obligation to care for each deceased person with the highest respect and dignity, and to transport, prepare and shelter the remains in a professional, caring and conscientious manner.

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II – 1 All deceased persons shall be treated with proper care and dignity during transfer from the place of death and subsequent transportation of the remains.

II – 2 Only authorized personnel of the funeral home or those persons authorized by the family shall be in attendance during the preparation of the remains.

II – 3 Members shall only allow embalmers, funeral directors, funeral director interns, and authorized students, who are licensed to the extent required by state law, to embalm human remains.

II – 4 All deceased persons in the preparation room shall be treated with proper care and dignity and shall be properly covered.

II – 5 Members shall not violate any statute, ordinance, or regulation affecting the handling, custody, care, transportation or disposition of human remains.

III. OBLIGATIONS TO THE PUBLIC

Ethical Principle: Members have an ethical obligation to the public to offer their services and to operate their businesses in accordance with the highest principles of honesty and professionalism.

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III – 1 Members shall not engage in any unprofessional conduct which is likely to defraud or deceive the public.

III – 2 Members shall not engage in false or misleading advertising.

III – 3 Members shall not personally or through an agent or employee expressly solicit deceased human remains, whether the solicitation occurs after death or while death is imminent; provided, however, that general advertising directed to the public at large would not constitute a violation of this section.

III – 4 Members shall not pay or offer to pay a commission or anything of value to third parties, such as medical personnel, nursing home and hospice organizations or employees there of, clergy, government officials or others, to secure deceased human remains for funeral or disposition services.

III – 5 Members shall not allow alcohol or drug use of any kind to adversely impact the member's ability to carry out his or her obligation as a funeral professional.

III – 6 Members shall not be convicted of any felony or serious criminal act.

III – 7 Members shall not offer to sell or arrange the sale of funeral goods or services on a preneed basis in violation of any applicable federal or state laws or regulations.

IV. OBLIGATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

Ethical Principle: Members have an ethical obligation to maintain strict compliance with all governmental laws and regulations that impact the funeral consumer, the funeral profession, and the public health.

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IV – 1 Members engaging in the profession of funeral directing or embalming shall hold all necessary licenses and registrations to engage in such businesses.

IV – 2 Members shall require any person in their employ or under their control who serves as a funeral director or embalmer, or as a funeral director intern or authorized student, to have all appropriate licenses and registrations.

IV – 3 Members shall not knowingly place a false statement on a death certificate.

IV – 4 Members shall not knowingly make or file false records or reports in the practice of funeral directing.

IV – 5 Members shall comply with all federal, state or local laws, rules or regulations governing or impacting the practice of funeral directing.

IV – 6 Members shall comply with all federal, state or local laws, rules or regulations that were enacted to protect consumers.

IV – 7 Members shall comply with all federal, state or local laws, rules or regulations that were enacted to protect the environment.

V. OBLIGATIONS TO THE INDIANA FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Ethical Principle: Members have an ethical obligation to promote, participate and support the Indiana Funeral Directors Association in its mission to help all members enhance the quality of funeral service.

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V – 1 Members shall comply with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Indiana Funeral Directors Association.

V – 2 Members shall conduct themselves in a proper and appropriate manner while attending or participating in IFDA sponsored events and in all forms of communication with IFDA staff.

V – 3 Members shall cooperate in a timely, professional and respectful manner in all phases of an investigation, hearing and resolution of a complaint brought before the Ethics Committee.