

CHAPTER 149

EMBALMERS

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149.01 EMBALMING, FUNERAL DIRECTING; DEFINITIONS. No person shall embalm any dead human body or practice embalming, or direct or supervise funerals, in the state of Minnesota, without being licensed by the state board of health, except as hereinafter provided.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall be adopted and understood to be included within the meaning of this chapter:

(1) Any person who shall embalm dead human bodies, or who shall take charge of the remains of those dead of any communicable disease, or prepare dead human bodies for shipment, or hold himself out to do any of the above acts by advertising or any other means, shall be defined as and construed to be practicing mortuary science;

(2) Any person who engages for compensation in the following practices: directing or supervising funerals, or the business or practice of preparing dead human bodies for burial by means other than embalming, or the disposition of dead human bodies, or the provision or maintenance of a place for the preparation for disposition or for the care or disposition of dead human bodies, or the use in connection with such business of the word or term "funeral director," "undertaker," "mortician," "mortuary service," "mortuary science," or any other word or term from which can be implied the business of funeral directing, or the holding out to the public that one is a funeral director or mortician, shall be defined as and construed to be practicing funeral directing or mortuary science; provided, however, that the word "person," as used herein, shall apply only to a natural person;

(3) A "funeral director" is any person who has secured a license to engage in the practice of funeral directing as hereinbefore set forth;

(4) Any person who shall be licensed to practice both embalming and funeral directing as hereinbefore set forth in definitions (1) and (2) shall be said to be practicing "mortuary science";

(5) A "mortician" is any person who has secured a license to engage in the practice of mortuary science;

(6) A "resident trainee in mortuary science" is any person engaged in the learning of the practice of mortuary science under a mortician duly licensed and registered under the provisions of this chapter; provided, that no person shall serve or attempt to serve as such trainee under any such mortician or funeral director until he has filed a registration with the board.

[1905 c 101 s 1; 1927 c 305 s 1; 1937 c 417 s 1; 1955 c 35 s 1] (5817)

149.02 EXAMINATION; LICENSING. The state board of health is hereby authorized and empowered to examine all applicants for license to practice mortuary science or funeral directing and to determine whether or not such applicants possess the necessary qualifications to practice mortuary science or funeral directing; and, if upon such examination the board shall determine that such applicant is properly qualified to practice mortuary science or funeral directing, it shall grant a license to such person to practice mortuary science or funeral directing for a period ending the thirty-first day of December following.

On or after the thirty-first day of December, 1955, separate licenses as embalmer or funeral director shall not be issued, except that a license as funeral director shall be issued to those apprentices who have been registered under regulations of the board as apprentice funeral directors on the first day of July, 1955, qualify by examination for licensure under such regulations as funeral directors before the first day of August, 1957. Such applicants shall file an application for

license as a funeral director in the manner as is required in section 149.03 for a license in mortuary science. It shall be accompanied by a fee of \$12.50. However, a single license as a funeral director shall be issued to those persons whose custom, rites, or religious beliefs forbid the practice of embalming. An applicant for a single license as a funeral director under this exception shall submit to the board of health two affidavits substantiating the beliefs and convictions of the applicant and shall meet any other standards for licensure as are required by law or by regulation of the board. Such a funeral director shall only direct funerals for persons of his customs, rites or religious beliefs. In the case of a funeral conducted for persons of such customs, rites or religious beliefs where embalming and funeral directing is necessary according to law, such embalming and funeral directing shall be performed only by a person licensed to do so in this state.

All licensees who on the thirty-first day of December, 1955, hold licenses as embalmers only shall be granted licenses to practice mortuary science and may renew such licenses annually.

All licensees who on the thirty-first day of December, 1955, hold licenses as funeral director only may continue to renew such licenses annually. If such licensee fails to renew, as in this chapter required, his license as a funeral director shall not thereafter be reinstated.

To assist in the holding of such examination and enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, such board shall establish a committee of examiners in the mortuary sciences to which it shall appoint four examiners. Two examiners shall be licensed in mortuary science and shall have had at least five years experience immediately preceding their appointment in the preparation and disposition of dead human bodies and in the practice of mortuary science. A third examiner shall be a representative of the board, and the fourth examiner shall be a full-time academic staff member of the course in mortuary science of the university of Minnesota. The members of the committee shall serve for one, two, and three years, respectively, and thereafter each for a term of three years and until their successors qualify. Vacancies in such committee shall be filled by like appointments for unexpired terms and members thereof may be removed by the board for cause. Each member shall receive such sum per diem, and be reimbursed his necessary expenses for each day of actual service rendered, as the board may determine by its order.

[1905 c 101 s 2; 1927 c 305 s 2; 1937 c 417 s 2; 1955 c 35 s 2; 1959 c 395 s 1] (5818)

149.03 APPLICANTS, QUALIFICATIONS; LICENSEES FROM OTHER STATES; APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES. Subdivision 1. The applicant for an examination for license in mortuary science shall make application therefor in writing verified on a form prescribed as to details and furnished by the state board of health. Such application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$25 and be supported by affidavits from at least two reputable residents of the county in which the applicant resides or proposes to carry on the practice of mortuary science certifying that the applicant is of good moral character. No person shall be granted a license in mortuary science unless he shall be at least 21 years of age and of good moral character and temperate habits. Before the study of embalming or funeral directing in mortuary science was commenced, he shall have satisfactorily completed at least two scholastic years at an accredited college or university in such subjects as the board may prescribe by regulation as suitable and desirable preparation for the study of mortuary science. The applicant for license in mortuary science, after having secured a certificate of graduation from the course in mortuary science conducted by the university of Minnesota or from a school or college of mortuary science duly accredited, shall serve at least one year of apprenticeship experience in mortuary science. Previous registered apprenticeship experience in Minnesota may be accepted by the board for a period not exceeding three months in partial fulfillment of this apprenticeship requirement. The applicant shall have such sufficient knowledge, experience, and training as the board may determine to properly qualify for a license in mortuary science.

Subd. 2. Any holder of a license issued by state authority in any other state maintaining a system and standard of examination for license to engage in the business or practice of mortuary science, which, in the judgment of the board, shall be substantially the equivalent to that required in this state for the issuance of a license therefor, may obtain a license from the board without examination in the discretion of the board upon payment of an application fee of \$50 and upon proof of

good moral character, temperate habits, and practical experience. Such license shall be valid only until the following thirty-first day of December.

A licensee of any bordering state or province, the proximity of whose establishment makes possible the provision of service to Minnesota, may upon application be granted a mortuary science courtesy card at the discretion of the board. Such application shall be made upon forms provided by the board, shall contain proof of good moral character, temperate habits, and practice, and shall bear the endorsement of the applicant's licensing authority. A fee of \$25 shall accompany the application. The mortuary science courtesy card will permit the licensee to exercise the privileges granted by the license in mortuary science except that he may not operate a funeral establishment in Minnesota. The courtesy card shall expire on the thirty-first day of December in the year of its issuance and may be renewed annually at the discretion of the board upon payment of a renewal fee of \$7. The board may cancel a mortuary science courtesy card for abuse of the privileges it confers.

Subd. 3. Every apprentice and trainee shall register with the board annually in such manner as may be provided by the board and pay a registration fee of \$7.50. The secretary of the board shall keep a separate register of such trainees and apprentices, stating their names, ages, residences, where they attended school, the morticians with whom they were associated, and such other information as the board may require.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1963 c 461 s 3]

[1905 c 101 s 3; 1927 c 305 s 3; 1937 c 417 s 3; 1955 c 35 s 3; 1959 c 654 s 1, 2] (5819)

149.04 RENEWAL OF LICENSE. Any license may be renewed from time to time and shall be in force after such renewal for a period of one year from the preceding December 31 upon the payment of a renewal fee of \$15.

All fees received under this chapter shall be paid by the state board of health to the state treasurer and an amount of money equal to the amount so paid over by the board to the state treasurer is hereby appropriated out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated to the board for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter. The salaries of the necessary employees of the board, the per diem of the inspectors and examiners, their expenses, and all incidental expenses of the board in carrying out the provisions of this chapter shall be paid on order of the board from such appropriation, but no expense or claim shall be incurred or paid in excess of the amount received from the fees herein provided.

[1905 c 101 s 4; 1927 c 305 s 4; 1937 c 417 s 4; 1955 c 35 s 4; 1959 c 654 s 3; 1969 c 109 s 1] (5820)

149.05 LICENSES; DENIAL, SUSPENSION, REVOCATION; CERTIORARI; RULES. Subdivision 1. The state board of health may refuse to grant, refuse to renew, or may suspend or revoke, a license of any applicant or licensee, for any of the following causes or acts:

(1) The obtaining of, or attempt to obtain, a license by fraudulent representation;

(2) Conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude;

(3) Violation of the laws of this state relative to the burial or disposal of dead human bodies, or of the rules and regulations of the board in relation to the care, custody, or disposition of dead human bodies, or the disinfecting of premises where contagion exists;

(4) For incompetency or untrustworthiness in the practice of mortuary science or funeral directing or the excessive use of alcohol or unlawful use of narcotics;

(5) For "unprofessional conduct," which means the use of false or misleading advertising, obtaining possession of or embalming a dead human body without first being directed or duly authorized to do so by a relative of the deceased person or a person entitled to custody thereof, or refusing to surrender promptly the custody of a dead human body upon the express order of the person lawfully entitled to the custody thereof;

(6) Upon satisfactory proof that the licensee directly or indirectly has paid or caused to be paid any sum of money or other valuable consideration for the securing of business or for obtaining authority to dispose of any dead human body;

(7) Upon satisfactory proof that a licensee has employed any person not registered or licensed under the provisions of this chapter to perform the duties of a mortician or funeral director.

Subd. 2. The state board of health may, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 15, adopt rules and regulations defining or interpreting the above grounds for refusing to grant, refusing to renew, or suspension or revocation of a license.

Subd. 3. Any action of the board in refusing to grant or renew a license or in suspending or revoking a license may be subject to review by a writ of certiorari issued by the district court of any county.

Subd. 4. The board shall make and enforce reasonable regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter for the examination and licensing of morticians and funeral directors, and the registration, training and regulation of trainees, and the investigation and hearing for the refusal to renew, suspension or revocation of licenses, and in relation to the sanitary construction, equipment, operation and maintenance of mortuaries, funeral directing establishments, and other places used for the care or the preparation for the burial or disposal of dead human bodies, and for inspection thereof.

[1905 c 101 s 5; 1927 c 417 s 5; 1943 c 482 s 1; 1955 c 35 s 5; 1961 c 476 s 1; 1963 c 461 s 1] (5821)

149.06 VIOLATIONS, PENALTIES. Any person who shall embalm a dead human body, or who shall hold himself out as a mortician, embalmer, funeral director, or trainee, without being licensed or registered, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished accordingly. This chapter shall not apply to or in any way interfere with the duties of any officer of any public institution, or with the duties of any officer of a medical college, county medical society, anatomical association, accredited college of mortuary science, or to any person engaged in the performance of duties prescribed by law relating to the conditions under which the indigent dead human bodies are held subject to anatomical study, or to the custom or rites of any religious sect in the burial of their dead.

No person registered as a trainee shall use his name, or cause or permit it to be used, in any way, in the name, designation, or title, or in the advertising of the funeral establishment with which he is associated or in which he may have acquired a proprietary or financial interest.

Nothing in this chapter shall in any way affect the operation of corporations or burial associations, providing all work of embalming or funeral directing is done by licensed morticians or funeral directors, as provided by this chapter. It shall be unlawful for any such corporation or burial association to:

(1) Violate any of the laws of this state relative to the burial or disposal of dead human bodies, or any of the rules and regulations of the state board of health in relation to the care, custody, or disposition of dead human bodies, or the disinfecting of premises where contagion exists;

(2) Publish or disseminate misleading advertising;

(3) Directly or indirectly pay or cause to be paid any sum of money or other valuable consideration for the securing of business, other than by advertising, or for obtaining authority to dispose of any dead human bodies;

(4) Permit unlicensed persons to render or perform any of the services required to be performed by persons licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

Any corporation or burial association violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as repealing any of the laws of this state in regard to the organizing or incorporating of cooperative associations.

[1905 c 101 s 6; 1937 c 417 s 6; 1955 c 35 s 6; 1963 c 461 s 2] (5822)

149.07 VETERANS, INFORMATION TO COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS. The embalmer, funeral director, or other person who directs or supervises the funeral, burial, interment, or preparation of the body of any deceased veteran, shall furnish to the commissioner of veterans affairs the following information, if known: the name of the deceased veteran; the military rank or grade and military organization; the name and post office address of the next of kin, or of the person who authorized burial; the date and place of death; the date and place of burial, including the name of the cemetery and location of the grave. Such information shall be furnished upon forms to be provided by the commissioner of veterans affairs. The person required to furnish said information shall execute the form in duplicate, and on or before the tenth of the month following the interment shall mail one copy to the commissioner of veterans affairs.

[1947 c 302 s 1]

149.08 FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT PERMIT. On and after July 1, 1969, no person shall conduct, maintain, manage, or operate a funeral establishment unless a

permit for each such establishment has been issued by the state board of health and is conspicuously displayed in such funeral establishment. Each permit shall be valid only for one specific location, and separate permits shall be required of two or more firms operating from the same funeral establishment.

"Funeral establishment" means every place or premise devoted to or used in the care and preparation for the funeral and burial of human dead, or as the office or place for carrying on the profession of funeral service, or for any combination of the foregoing purposes.

A permit to operate a funeral establishment shall be issued by the state board of health upon application for such permit made on blanks furnished by the state board of health and filed with the secretary of the board on or before July 1 of each year and payment of an annual fee of \$25. All such permits shall expire on June 30 of each year.

Violation of any provision of Laws 1969, Chapter 109 or any rules or regulations of the state board of health committed by any person operating a funeral establishment or with his knowledge and consent by his officer, agent or employee, shall be considered sufficient cause for suspension or revocation of such funeral establishment permit.

[1969 c 109 s 2]

149.11 PREARRANGED FUNERAL PLANS; CONTRACTS; TRUST FUNDS.

When prior to the death of any person, he or someone in his behalf, enters into any transaction, makes a contract, or any series or combination of transactions or contracts with another person, partnership, association or corporation, other than an insurance company licensed to do business in the State of Minnesota, for or related to the disposition of his body, by the terms of which, certain personal property will be delivered upon his death, or the professional services of a funeral director or embalmer will then be furnished, or both, then the total of all money so paid by the terms of such transaction, contract or series or combination of transactions or contracts shall be held in trust for the purpose for which it has been paid until the obligation of the transaction, contract or series or combination of transactions or contracts is fulfilled according to its terms, or refunded to the person who made the payment or payments, upon his demand. Accruals of interest or dividends declared upon the sum of money so held in trust are subject to the same trust.

[1953 c 481 s 1; 1967 c 32 s 1]

149.12 DEPOSIT OF TRUST FUNDS. Within 15 days after its receipt, any person holding money in trust under section 149.11 shall deposit all of said money in a banking institution, or place the money in an account in a savings, building and loan association, organized under the laws of this state or of the United States of America, the deposits or accounts of which banking institution or association are insured by an instrumentality of the federal government. The money shall be carried in a separate account in the name of the depositor as trustee for the person who will receive the benefit of the property and services upon his death. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 48.521 to 48.528 shall not apply to money deposited or received and held in trust pursuant to sections 149.11 to 149.14. All such money not used for the purpose intended upon the death of the cestui que trust shall revert to and become a part of his estate.

[1953 c 481 s 2; 1967 c 32 s 2]

149.13 REPORTS. Where a banking institution or a savings, building and loan association has received money in trust, under section 149.12, it shall report the amount received and held in trust to the probate court of the county wherein the cestui que trust resides, within 30 days thereafter. This report shall show the name and address of each trustee and cestui que trust, the principal amount remaining, and the current interest rate applicable to such account.

[1953 c 481 s 3]

149.14 VIOLATIONS. Any person wilfully violating the provisions of section 149.12 shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

[1953 c 481 s 4; 1955 c 758 s 1]

149.15 INJUNCTION. In addition to the remedies otherwise provided, an action for an injunction may be brought and maintained by the attorney general on behalf of the state of Minnesota, or by any other interested party to enjoin violation of sections 149.11 to 149.14.

[1967 c 32 s 3]