

Cremation Procedures

In accordance with 6CSR2, Section 15

1. Cremation chamber for human remains

Only dead human bodies may be cremated, along with the cremation container and a sheet or pouch utilized for disease control. Animals can not be cremated in the same unit as humans. A cremation container must be used as a means of protecting the crematory operator and providing dignity to the decedent. The crematory is allowed to charge for the use of the cremation container.

2. Privacy

- A. Only authorized crematory personnel are allowed in the room which houses the cremation unit while a body is in the cremation area awaiting cremation, in the cremation chamber, being removed from the cremation chamber, or being processed and placed in a cremated remains container.
- B. If the family of the decedent wishes to view the body, the crematory must designate an area for such use. This area can not be a part of the room which houses the cremation unit. The designated area must be clean and sanitary.
- C. A crematory operator shall not interfere with traditional religious rituals or ceremonies. If a ritual or ceremony requires a family member to witness a cremation or start the cremation unit, the crematory operator must, with utmost care and caution, directly supervise this ritual or ceremony, provide clear instructions to the family member about proper procedures, and inform the family member about what happens to a body as it is being cremated.

3. Operation of the crematory unit and mechanical processor

Only a certified crematory operator may operate a crematory unit and remove cremated remains from the crematory unit and operate a mechanical processor. However, other staff may be present and assist in the room where the crematory unit is housed.

4. Removal of objects from the dead human body

- A. A crematory can not be required to remove any objects from a deceased human body prior to cremation if the crematory was contracted by a licensed funeral establishment to provide the cremation, as this duty is the responsibility of the funeral establishment. However, the crematory operator may remove these objects if the funeral establishment contracts with the crematory to remove such objects, provided that the funeral establishment has made arrangements to get authorization for such removal from the authorized representative. A crematory shall be responsible for removing objects from a body if the authorized representative contracts directly with the crematory to provide the cremation.
- B. A crematory operator must not remove any dental gold, body parts, organs, or other items of value from a body prior to the cremation EXCEPT with the express written permission from the authorized representative. The crematory must disclose to the authorized representative or the contracting funeral establishment that objects will not be recoverable after cremation and mechanical processing. The crematory must also give the authorized representative the opportunity to have jewelry or other items of value removed prior to cremation. The crematory must maintain this information as part of the records.
- C. A crematory must ask the authorized representative or the contracting funeral establishment if the body contains objects or medications which may be hazardous. If the crematory ascertains that such objects or medications are present, the crematory may refuse to cremate the body and suggest a traditional burial. However, the crematory can not be prohibited from cremating a body containing such objects or medications, provided that the crematory takes all necessary precautions in protecting its employees and equipment and follows any state or federal regulations regarding the incineration of such objects or medications.

5. Commingling of human remains prohibited in the cremation chamber

Except with the express written permission of the authorized representative, a crematory can not cremate more than one body at the same time and in the same cremation chamber. A crematory can not introduce a second body into a cremation chamber

until the unit has been thoroughly cleaned after the last cremation. The fact that there is incidental and unavoidable residue in the cremation chamber used in a prior cremation is not a violation of this provision.

6. Removal from the cremation chamber

After cremation, the crematory operator must make reasonable efforts to remove all of the recoverable cremated human remains and non-combustible materials from the unit. Insofar as is possible, the crematory operator must properly separate the non-combustible materials from the cremated human remains. He or she is allowed to dispose of the non-combustible materials as regular refuse. The crematory operator must place the cremated remains in an appropriate container to be transported to the processing area.

7. Commingling of human remains prohibited in the mechanical processor

Except with the express written permission of the authorized representative, a crematory can not mechanically process more than one body at the same time and in the same mechanical processor. A crematory can not introduce a second body into a mechanical processor until the unit has been thoroughly cleaned after the last use. The fact that there is incidental and unavoidable residue in the cremation chamber used in a prior cremation is not a violation of this provision.

8. Processing the cremated remains

The crematory operator must use a mechanical processor to reduce the cremated remains to a granulated appearance. The crematory operator must place the cremated remains in a cremated remains container along with the appropriate identifying disk, tab, or label.

9. Container of sufficient capacity and durability.

A. If a cremated remains container is of insufficient capacity to accommodate all cremated remains of a body, subject to directives provided in the written authorization to cremate, the crematory operator must place the excess cremated remains in a secondary cremated remains container and attach the second container securely to the primary container. The secondary container must contain a duplicate of the identification disk, tab, or label that was placed in the primary container. All paperwork regarding the body must include a notation that the cremated remains were placed in two or more containers. All containers must be closed, rigid, and leak resistant.

B. If the authorized representative requests that the cremated remains are to be divided into two or more containers, the crematory operator must ensure that all containers contain the identification disk, tab, or label and that all paperwork include a notation of this information. The crematory must require each recipient of a container to sign a form authorizing the release, or if the authorized representative is also serving as a representative of the recipients, the authorized representative must sign a separate form for each container which authorizes the release of the container.

10. Disposition of accumulated residue

A crematory must provide for the removal and disposition in accordance with local, state, and federal laws of any accumulated residue from the cremation chamber and mechanical processor, or other equipment used in cremation.

11. Storing bodies awaiting cremation

A crematory must install a refrigeration unit OR have access to a refrigeration unit for the purpose of storing unembalmed bodies. The crematory must refrigerate an unembalmed body when the crematory operator considers refrigeration necessary, based on the condition and deterioration of the body. Bodies in later stages of deterioration must be given priority. If the body has been embalmed, the crematory is not be required to refrigerate the body.

12. Dust on and around the cremation chamber

A crematory must vacuum all dust on the outside of and around the cremation unit and treat it as cremated remains. A crematory is allowed to dispose of these cremated remains by burial in a common grave or other space dedicated to such cremated remains, in a respectful manner.