
Professional Certificate in Mortuary Science

Cremation Procedures

Cremation Procedures:

Cremation is a method of final disposition of a deceased person's body through burning, typically carried out in a crematorium. Cremation procedures involve several steps to ensure the proper handling of the deceased and the respectful completion of the cremation process.

1. **Initial Preparation:** The first step in the cremation process involves the identification and verification of the deceased. This includes confirming the identity of the deceased through a wristband or other means, as well as verifying any special instructions or requests from the family.
2. **Paperwork:** Before the cremation can take place, all necessary paperwork must be completed. This includes obtaining a death certificate, completing a cremation authorization form, and ensuring that all legal requirements are met.
3. **Casket Selection:** If a casket is used for the cremation, the family or funeral director must select an appropriate casket for the deceased. Cremation caskets are typically made of wood or other combustible materials.
4. **Viewing and Ceremony:** Some families choose to have a viewing or ceremony before the cremation takes place. This allows loved ones to say goodbye and pay their respects to the deceased.
5. **Transfer to Crematorium:** Once all preparations are complete, the deceased is transferred to the crematorium. The body is typically transported in a cremation container or casket.
6. **Cremation Process:** The actual cremation process involves placing the deceased in a cremation chamber, where they are exposed to high temperatures (ranging from 1400 to 1800 degrees Fahrenheit) for a period of 2-3 hours. During this time, the body is reduced to bone fragments through the process of combustion.
7. **Cooling and Processing:** After the cremation is complete, the remains are allowed to cool before being processed. Any metal objects, such as dental fillings or surgical implants, are removed from the remains using a magnet or other means.
8. **Grinding and Pulverization:** Once the remains have cooled, they are placed in a cremulator, which is a machine that grinds the bone fragments into a fine powder known as cremains or cremated remains.
9. **Final Placement:** The cremains are then placed in a temporary urn or container, which can be used for scattering or burial. Alternatively, the family may choose to transfer the cremains to a more permanent urn for display or interment.

10. Disposition of Cremains: The final step in the cremation process involves the disposition of the cremains. This may include scattering the ashes in a meaningful location, burying them in a cemetery or memorial garden, or keeping them in a special urn at home.

Cremation procedures are regulated by state and local laws to ensure that the process is carried out with dignity and respect for the deceased. Funeral directors and crematorium staff play a crucial role in guiding families through the cremation process and ensuring that all necessary steps are followed.