

Sirhowy Valley Crematorium**FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL DECLARATION 2019**

Extract from: *The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities Instructions for Funeral Directors* (www.fbca.org.uk)

1. NOTICE OF CREMATION

The Funeral Director will book the service directly or online with the crematorium, giving sufficient notice as agreed with the Crematorium Manager and provide all statutory paperwork at least 48 Working Hours in advance of the cremation service.

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 of any kind including metal furniture, handles or fittings whatever 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 strengthening is required, wooden strips may be placed lengthways for this purpose.

External coatings to a coffin must allow for a smokeless combustion and the use of nitro-cellulose varnish, polyurethane, melamine and any products containing polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or melamine must not be used. Water based lacquer free from additives containing heavy metals may be used for coating a coffin. The exception to the foregoing is the use of polystyrene which is restricted to the coffin nameplate only and which must not exceed 90 grams in weight.

Cardboard coffins should not contain chlorine in the wet strength agent. (E.g. not using polyamidoamine-epichlorhydrin based resin (PAA-E). Contact should be made with the Crematorium Administration to ensure that the coffin selected is fit for the purpose of cremation.

Paper-Mache coffins are NOT suitable for cremation.

3. LINING OF THE COFFIN

The use of sawdust, cotton wool or paper within a coffin 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 OF THE COFFIN

Where the external dimensions of a coffin including all handles are likely to exceed: length 81 inches (206cms); width 30 inches (76cms); depth 22 inches (56cms), the crematorium must be contacted as soon as practicable.

5. CLOTHING AND COFFIN CONTENT

In order to minimise the release of pollutants to air, it is recommended that the deceased clothing should be of natural fibres and that shoes or 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 a coffin.

6. 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.

7. CREMATION OF PREGNANCY LOSS, STILLBIRTH, NEO-NATAL AND INFANT DEATHS

This Cremation Authority wishes it to be known that it considers the interests of the bereaved family and baby in our care to be the central focus of our attention. This will be reflected in all our administrative and operational practices and procedures.

Definition of 'Ashes'.

Whilst our employees might use the terms 'ashes' and 'cremated remains' we deem these to be one and the same and defined as '*all that is left in the cremator at the end of the cremation process and following the removal of any metal*'. There might be a small number of cases where there are no ashes remaining at the end of the cremation process.

It is important that this is made clear to the parents so that they are aware of the facts, especially as they may, as a result, prefer earth burial. For further information, please refer to our previously distributed document, Westerleigh Infant Cremation Policy.

8. Cremated Remains

Cremated Remains or Ashes (including Pet Ashes) must not be placed within a coffin as they can cause problems to the cremator and are at risk of being lost or diminished during the cremation process

9. DECLARATION

I have read and understand these requirements and agree to abide by them.

Signed by Funeral Director Date

Company Name Tel No