Michigan Funeral Directors Association
Issue Advocacy
Mortuary Science Limited License Reciprocity with Neighboring States

Issue

Create limited mortuary science (funeral director) license reciprocity with bordering states through the issuance of a "courtesy card".

Background

Properly serving bereaved families sometimes requires crossing state lines. For example, an individual may die in Michigan, but the funeral services and burial are to take place in Indiana, or an Ohio resident has a family burial plot in Michigan. The statutory authority to handle and supervise final disposition in Michigan currently remains with a licensed Michigan funeral director.

Towards the end of the 2012 legislative session, Ohio and Indiana each passed "courtesy card" legislation that allows licensed funeral directors in neighboring states to apply for and receive a courtesy card that allows them to perform certain limited tasks. These include: removal of a deceased, certifying the death certificate, and supervising the final disposition. However, courtesy cards will only be issued to funeral directors in a neighboring state that *also* has a courtesy card or limited reciprocity statute.

Problem

If a Michigan resident dies in a neighboring state, a funeral director in the neighboring state has to be hired to make the removal, sign all documentation required for that state (i.e.-removal permit, transportation permit, death certificate, etc....), and transport the remains back to Michigan. Requiring an additional funeral home and director to be involved, adds to costs handling family members deaths to Michigan families.

Solution

Adopt courtesy card legislation as enacted in Ohio and Indiana.

Requested Legislative Action

Pass House Bills 4303, 4329, & 4330

Sponsored by: Rep. Ken Kurtz