

GUIDELINES FOR OREGON CEMETERIES

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Complying with Oregon Laws & Rules

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MISSION

The mission of the Board is to protect public health, safety and welfare by fairly and efficiently performing its licensing, inspection and enforcement duties; by promoting professional behavior and standards in all facets of the Oregon death care industry; and, by maintaining constructive relationships with licensees, those they serve and others with an interest in the Board's activities.

HISTORY OF CEMETERY CERTIFICATION / LICENSURE

In October of 1984, authorities discovered that Lincoln City funeral director Dale Omsberg grossly neglected and horribly abused a large number of human remains. During the course of investigating the Omsberg case, it was also discovered that the cemetery in which Mr. Omsberg buried a number of bodies did not have records indicating who was buried in the cemetery or when and where bodies were interred.

As a consequence of that tragic incident, the 1985 Legislature radically revised and strengthened Oregon's laws pertaining to death care facilities and the final disposition of human remains. Among other things, the legislation established the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board (Board) and gave it responsibility for regulating cemeteries and crematories as well as funeral establishments. Also at that time, procedures for tracking human remains through the use of a numbered identification tag which corresponded with the number on the Oregon death certificate were statutorily implemented in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) Chapter 432.

All operating cemeteries are now required to obtain and maintain Board licensure.

LEGAL AUTHORITIES DEFINING CEMETERY TERMS & THE REQUIREMENT FOR LICENSURE

ORS Chapter 692

ORS 692.010(2) "Cemetery" means any one, or a combination of more than one, of the following, in a place used, or intended to be used, and dedicated, for cemetery purposes:

- (a) A burial park, for earth interments;
- (b) A mausoleum, for crypt interments;
- (c) A columbarium, for permanent cinerary interments;
- (d) A scattering garden or other designated area above or below ground where a person may pay to establish a memorial of cremated remains; or
- (e) A cenotaph, the primary purpose of which is to provide an area where a person may pay to establish a memorial to honor a person whose remains may be interred elsewhere or whose remains cannot be recovered.

ORS 692.025(6) Provides that no person or city, county or other municipal corporation shall conduct the business of an operating cemetery without first receiving a certificate of authority¹ to conduct the business of an operating cemetery under ORS 692.275.

ORS 692.010 (7) "Operating cemetery" means a cemetery that:

- (a) Performs interments;
- (b) Has fiduciary responsibility for endowment care, general care or special care funds; or
- (c) Has outstanding preneed service contracts for unperformed services.

¹ OAR 830-011-0000(4): "Certificate of Authority" A Certificate of Authority is a certificate issued to an individual or corporation who is responsible for the operation of either a cemetery or crematory. If the crematory or cemetery is a corporation, the Certificate of Authority shall be issued to the corporation. [The certificate of authority is the actual license to operate].

ORS 692.275 Certificate of authority for operating cemetery, crematorium or facility for final disposition; fees; registration of certain cemeteries; rules applicable to crematoriums.

(1) A person may not conduct the business of an operating cemetery unless the person has a certificate of authority to do so. A person may apply for a certificate of authority on a form provided by the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board. The application must be accompanied by the application fee established under ORS 692.160. However, any exempt operating cemetery is entitled to receive a certificate of authority to operate upon payment of an initial fee not to exceed \$100 and a fee not to exceed \$50 for registration of all principals regardless of the total number of principals. An exempt operating cemetery is not required to pay the renewal fee or the fee for any change in principal other than the cemetery manager.

(2) A cemetery, other than an operating cemetery or a historic cemetery² listed with the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries under ORS 97.782³, must be registered with the board. An owner of a cemetery, other than an operating cemetery or a historic cemetery listed with the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries under ORS 97.782, must register the cemetery with the board on a form provided by the board. No fee may be required of a cemetery registrant.

(4) For purposes of this section and ORS 692.025, each location of a cemetery or crematorium is a separate location and must be licensed separately. Those cemeteries that are subject to registration must be registered separately.

(7) This section applies to operating cemeteries or other cemeteries owned by any city, county or other municipal corporation.

(8) The board may not subject an exempt operating cemetery to random inspections.

ORS 692.010 Definitions

(3) “Exempt operating cemetery” means an operating cemetery that has 10 or fewer interments annually.

(4) “Final disposition” means the burial, interment, cremation, dissolution or other disposition of human remains authorized by the board by rule.

ORS 97.010 Definitions

(1) “Burial” means the placement of human remains in a grave or lawn crypt.

(4) “Cemetery” means a place:

(a) Dedicated to and used, or intended to be used, for a permanent memorial or the permanent interment of human remains; and

(b) That may contain a mausoleum, crypt or vault interment, a columbarium, an ossuary, a cenotaph, a scattering garden, any other structure or place used or intended to be used for the interment or disposition of human remains or any combination of these structures or places.

(5) “Cemetery association” means a corporation or association authorized by its articles of incorporation to conduct the business of a cemetery, but does not include a corporation sole or a charitable, eleemosynary association or corporation.

(6) “Cemetery authority” means a person who owns or controls cemetery lands or property, including but not limited to a cemetery corporation, association or corporation sole.

² ORS 97.772 Definition of “historic cemetery.” For purposes of ORS 97.772 to 97.784, “historic cemetery” means any burial place that contains the remains of one or more persons who died before February 14, 1909.

³ ORS 97.782: Provides that a historic cemetery that is not an operating cemetery, as defined in ORS 692.010, shall be listed with the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries. An owner or any other person or association of individuals that maintains such a historic cemetery shall list the historic cemetery with the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries on a form provided by the commission. No fee shall be required from a historic cemetery for listing. [This legislation was enacted into law in 1999]. Contact OCHP at <http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/OCHC/> or phone: (503) 986-0685

- (7) “Cemetery business” and “cemetery purpose” are used interchangeably and mean any business or purpose requisite or incident to, or necessary for establishing, maintaining, operating, improving or conducting a cemetery, interring human remains, and the care, preservation and embellishment of cemetery property.
- (8) “Cemetery merchandise” means personal property offered for sale or sold for use in connection with the final disposition, memorialization or interment of human remains. “Cemetery merchandise” includes, but is not limited to, an outer burial container and a memorial.
- (9) “Cemetery services” means services provided by a cemetery authority for interment or scattering, and installation of cemetery merchandise.
- (10) “Cenotaph” means a place, the primary purpose of which is to provide an area where a person may pay to establish a memorial to honor a person whose remains may be interred elsewhere or whose remains cannot be recovered.
- (11) “Columbarium” means a structure or room containing receptacles for permanent inurnment of cremated remains in a place used, or intended to be used, and dedicated for cemetery purposes.
- (12) “Cremated remains” means the remains of a cremated human body after completion of the cremation process.
- (13) “Cremation” means the technical process, using direct flame and heat, that reduces human remains to bone fragments.
- (15) “Crypt” or “vault” means a space in a mausoleum of sufficient size used, or intended to be used, to entomb uncremated human remains.
- (16) “Directors” or “governing body” means the board of directors, board of trustees or other governing body of a cemetery association.
- (18) “Entombment” means the placement of human remains in a crypt or vault.
- (21) “Grave” means a space of ground in a burial park used, or intended to be used, for burial of the remains of one person.
- (22) “Human remains” or “remains” means the body of a deceased person in any stage of decomposition or after cremation.
- (23) “Interment” means the disposition of human remains by inurnment, entombment or burial.
- (24) “Inurnment” means the placement of cremated remains in a receptacle and the deposit of the receptacle in a niche.
- (25) “Lot,” “plot” or “burial space” means space in a cemetery owned by one or more individuals, an association or fraternal or other organization and used, or intended to be used, for the permanent interment therein of the remains of one or more deceased persons. Such terms include and apply with like effect to one, or more than one, adjoining grave, crypt, vault or niche.
- (26) “Mausoleum” means a structure substantially exposed above ground for the entombment of human remains in crypts or vaults in a place used, or intended to be used, and dedicated for cemetery purposes.
- (27) “Memorial” means a product, other than a mausoleum or columbarium, used for identifying an interment space or for commemoration of the life, deeds or career of a decedent including, but not limited to, an ossuary, monument, marker, niche plate, urn garden plaque, crypt plate, cenotaph, marker bench or vase.

(28) "Niche" means a recess usually in a columbarium used, or intended to be used, for the inurnment of the cremated remains of one or more persons.

(29) "Ossuary" means a receptacle used for the communal placement of cremated remains without benefit of an urn or any other container in which cremated remains may be commingled with other cremated remains and are nonrecoverable.

(30) "Plot owner" or "owner" means any person identified in the records of the cemetery authority as owner of the burial rights to a burial plot, or who holds a certificate of ownership conveyed from the cemetery authority of the burial rights in a particular lot, plot or space.

(31) "Scattering" means the lawful dispersion of cremated remains that need not be associated with an interment right or issuance of a deed, that may be recorded only as a service that has taken place and may not be recorded on the permanent records of the cemetery authority.

(32) "Scattering garden" means a location set aside within a cemetery that is used for the spreading or broadcasting of cremated remains that have been removed from their container and can be mixed with or placed on top of the soil or ground cover or buried in an underground receptacle on a commingled basis and that are nonrecoverable.

(33) "Special care" means any care in excess of endowed care in accordance with the specific directions of a donor of funds. [Amended by 1955 c.545 §1; 1965 c.396 §1; 2007 c.661 §1; 2009 c.709 §10]

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN OPERATING CEMETERY

An operating cemetery has several responsibilities in order to maintain compliance with the legal authorities and regulations within the Board's jurisdiction, which include:

1. Licensing the cemetery and maintaining compliance with applicable statutes and rules. "Principals" of a cemetery owner can change, so it is important to keep the Board informed of any changes in "principals," or ownership. All applicants and principals must consent to a background check [ORS 692.025(7)]. Certificates of Authority are renewed on a biennial basis and fees are established according to the number of interments.

If a cemetery is conducting "preneed" sales of cemetery goods and services, it must be registered with the Department of Consumer and Business Services and comply with the provisions of ORS 97.923 to 97.949. In addition, any person must first receive a preneed sales certificate of registration from the Board before engaging in preneed sales activity. OAR 830-011-0070 (*See pages 11 & 12*)

2. Performing the duties of sexton when receiving casketed remains for interment. (*See pages 12 & 13*)
3. Ensuring placement in the designated grave, crypt or vault within 24 hours after receiving and accepting human remains. (*See page 12*)
4. Maintaining accurate permanent records, and have them available for Board inspection. (*See pages 13 & 14*)
5. Expediently responding to consumer complaints and Board inquiries. (*See page 17*)

CERTIFICATION / LICENSING PROCESS

If a person or corporation is forming an entirely new cemetery, there are several steps to take prior to the involvement of the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board. Not all of the steps outlined in ORS 97 apply to

cemeteries that have been in existence and may already be surveyed, platted, dedicated, etc. Please note that this information does not constitute legal advice.

For a new cemetery, first check with the appropriate department regarding permits, restrictions, inspections, covenants, land use issues, etc.

The legal initial formative process for a cemetery is outlined in ORS 97.310 through ORS 97.340⁴, and ORS 97.460 and involves:

1. Obtaining approval from the local planning commission.
2. ORS 97.310: Survey and subdivision of land into sections, blocks, plots, venues, walks or other subdivisions and make a good and substantial map or plat showing them with descriptive names or numbers. This is to be done in compliance with ORS 92.010 to 92.190.
3. Filing a map or plat and a declaration of dedication of the land to cemetery purposes in the office of the recording officer of the county in which all or a portion of the property is located.
4. The dedication is complete upon the filing of the map or plat and of the declaration for record, and thereafter the property shall be held, occupied and used exclusively for cemetery purposes [unless the process outlined in ORS 97.440 to remove the dedication is completed].
5. Once the property has been legally dedicated for cemetery purposes, or during that time, the type of cemetery can be determined. Examples are: as a private corporation, a non-profit corporation, a cemetery maintenance district, or a municipal cemetery; and the principals, such as the Board of Directors and manager, can be identified. (*See page 15*)
6. Will the cemetery be operated/maintained as an endowment cemetery? If this is the case, then all of the provisions of ORS 97.810 must be met, and followed through with depositing funds according to ORS 97.820. (*See page 15*)

Will the cemetery be operated/maintained as a non-endowment care cemetery? A non-endowed care cemetery is one that does not deposit in an endowment care fund, the minimum specified in subsection (2) of ORS 97.810.

7. Developing a plan for at need sales of cemetery goods and services. Decide if the cemetery will conduct preneed sales of cemetery goods and services. If the cemetery conducts preneed sales, the provisions of ORS 97.923 to 97.949 apply. (*See page 15*)
8. Developing the deeds, sales contracts and any other forms used to convey the right of interment, opening & closing costs, etc.
9. Developing the cemetery record keeping system. (*See pages 12 & 13*)

⁴ **ORS 97.020** Exemption of certain organizations and cemeteries from certain sections of chapter. (1) The provisions of ORS 97.030, 97.120, **97.310 to 97.350**, 97.360 (1), 97.510 and 97.550 relating to private cemeteries do not apply to:

(a) Any religious or eleemosynary corporation, church, religious society or denomination, corporation sole administering temporalities of any church or religious society or denomination or any cemetery that such entity organizes, controls or operates.

(b) Any county or city cemetery.

(2) The provisions of ORS 97.810 to 97.865 (endowment care requirements) relating to private cemeteries do not apply to:

(a) Any religious or eleemosynary corporation, church, religious society or denomination, corporation sole administering temporalities of any church or religious society or denomination or any cemetery that such entity organizes, controls or operates, unless the cemetery authority for an entity described in this paragraph elects to subject itself to ORS 97.810 to 97.865.

(b) Any county or city cemetery, unless the county or city elects to subject itself to ORS 97.810 to 97.865. [Amended by 1955 c.473 §1; 1997 c.167 §1]

10. Developing cemetery rules, which are discussed in ORS 97.710. (See page14)

11. Completing the Board licensing process, outlined in ORS Chapter 692 and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 830. Legal authorities are included with this information.

DETERMINING WHETHER A CEMETERY IS AN OPERATING CEMETERY

A cemetery authority may be notified by the Board that their cemetery appears to be an operating cemetery, or a cemetery authority wants to know if their cemetery is an operating cemetery. In either case, the Board has a questionnaire available for the cemetery authority to complete which will provide the Board with the necessary information to determine whether a cemetery is operating and must be certificated/licensed. The questionnaire link is: http://www.oregon.gov/MortCem/Forms/Cemetery_Questionnaire.pdf

If the cemetery in question is determined to be "operating," a new operating cemetery is being established, or an existing cemetery is changing ownership, the following licensing procedure applies:

REQUESTING AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY (LICENSE)

All applications are available on the Board website: www.oregon.gov/MortCem or you may contact the Board office and an application will be mailed to you. The cemetery application must be submitted (including the principal forms) with the appropriate fees as follows:

The application fee for an operating cemetery that has ten (10) or fewer interments annually is entitled to receive a certificate of authority to operate upon payment of the initial fee not to exceed \$100 and a fee not to exceed \$50 for registration of all principals regardless of the total number of principals. Please note that the cost of the background investigation(s) is included in this principal fee. An exempt operating cemetery is not required to pay the renewal fee or the fee for any change in principal other than the cemetery manager. ORS 692.275(1)

OR

If the cemetery performs more than ten interments per year, the application fee is \$150.00 which includes the fee for the first principal. Another \$50 fee is required for each additional principal. All principals named on the application are required to submit a completed Background Information Questionnaire to the Board office along with the cemetery application. Please note that the cost of the background investigation is included in this principal fee.

Please call the Board Licensing Specialist, (971) 673-1507, if you have questions about the number of principals associated with your proposed facility.

WHAT IS A PRINCIPAL?

OAR 830-011-0000 provides the following definition of a principal:

(34) "Principal" Principal means a persons who has controlling authority over the licensed facility, including but not limited to:

- (a) Managers or other persons who have decision-making authority and whose primary duties include control over the operation of the licensed facility;
- (b) Officers or directors who have some degree of responsibility for the operation of the licensed facility;
- (c) General Partners, limited and joint ventures;
- (d) Sole proprietors;
- (e) Stockholders holding a majority of outstanding shares of stock; and
- (f) Members of a Limited Liability Company.

OAR 830-040-0000(3) When a person, firm, partnership or corporation applies to the Board for a facility license, the name on the application shall identify of the primary activity of the facility if a license is granted (e.g. funeral, immediate disposition, cemetery or crematory service). This name shall be the registered name with the Board and shall also be used as the advertised name of the facility.

(4) Each licensed facility shall provide the Board with its true corporate, firm or individual name. Applications for all licensed facilities shall specify the names of all principals. If the principal is a corporation, the application shall include the names of all principals of that corporation.

(5) When there is a change in any principal of the licensed facility, the licensee shall provide the Board with the name of the new principal(s) on a form provided by the Board within 30 days of the change. If the new principal is a corporation, the licensee shall provide the names of the principals of that corporation to the Board on a form provided by the Board.

BUSINESS NAME

Applicants must provide a copy of their business registration with the Secretary of State Corporation Division; and/or their assumed business name.

OAR 830-040-0030 provides that each licensed facility shall be registered with the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board by its true corporate, firm or individual name. In addition, one assumed business name, as registered with the Corporation Commission, may be used by such licensed facility, and shall be promptly reported to the Board.

830-040-0000 General Principles (1) Every licensee operating under ORS Chapter 692 shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of ORS Chapter 692 and rules adopted thereunder, and any other law pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of the funeral service practitioner or the operation or licensing of funeral establishments, immediate disposition companies, cemeteries and crematoriums.

(2) The Board may refuse to allow use of any facility name which is misleading as to the nature of the facility's purpose.

(3) When a person, firm, partnership or corporation applies to the Board for a facility license, the name on the application shall identify the primary activity of the facility if a license is granted (e.g. funeral, immediate disposition, cemetery or crematory service). This name shall be the registered name with the Board and shall also be used as the advertised name of the facility.

830-040-0050 Advertising (1) Any licensed facility advertising through any media (including but not limited to telephone books, newspapers, direct mail, bill Boards, etc.) shall include the licensed facility's registered name and physical address as it appears on the Board's records.

(2) No person, firm or corporation shall advertise, promote, or market at need or preneed funeral arrangements without first having received a license from the Board.

(3) No cemetery or cremation facility, or person, firm or corporation shall advertise, promote, or market at need or preneed cemetery or cremation plans without first having received either a certificate of authority to operate that cemetery or crematorium.

(4) No person, firm or corporation shall advertise, promote, or market at need or preneed immediate disposition arrangements without having first registered with the Board.

(5) Any advertisement or marketing materials which intentionally conceals or misstates a material fact shall be considered misrepresentation.

In a change of ownership where an assumed business name or names held by the former owner are going to be maintained by the new owner, please notify the Board when the former owner has surrendered the rights to the associated name or names and provide a copy of the registration to the Board office.

INSPECTION OF CEMETERY NECESSARY FOR CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

Once the application is processed, background investigations are completed, paperwork has been reviewed and is compliant and any other issues have been resolved, a location and record inspection will be scheduled with an Inspector.

The following documents (if used by the facility) will be reviewed during the inspection, and may be faxed to the Board with the application, prior to the location and records inspection:

- a. Declaration of dedication
- b. Cemetery Map
- c. Copy of the deed (or the written instrument used to convey right of interment, or contract)
- d. Copy of Cemetery Rules
- e. Copy of pre-need sales contracts, if applicable
- f. At need contracts
- g. Price lists
- h. Interment / entombment / inurnment authorization

Inspection scheduling is based on the availability of an investigator/inspector and will generally be initiated through the Compliance Manager. New licensing and change of ownerships usually get Board staff priority, but due to time constraints, coordination of scheduling may take up to four weeks. It is helpful to inform the Compliance Manager or the assigned Inspector at the onset of the initial application process or by the time the paperwork review process is underway, of the targeted goal date for licensing a new cemetery or the anticipated date of closing for a change of ownership. This way, a tentative date for an inspection can be planned in advance. Maintaining strong communication with the investigator/inspector, and/or the Compliance Manager during the entire process is beneficial to all parties.

TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

By the time the final inspection is conducted, a cemetery is usually ready for licensing even if minor compliance corrections are noted during the inspection (unless an applicant is not a good risk for licensure). An inspection receipt will be issued at the conclusion of the inspection outlining any compliance issues that must be corrected. The receipt will contain a date negotiated for completion of corrective action and written confirmation from the Applicant that compliance has been achieved.

Unless there are extenuating circumstances or the licensing matter must be reviewed and considered by the Board prior to staff granting temporary authorization for licensure, the inspection receipt will serve as the temporary license to operate until the new license is issued and received. The date of the inspection will be recorded as the effective date of licensure on the new license. The Board will then ratify the licensure at the next regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting; and then it may take up to two weeks to receive a new Board issued cemetery certificate of authority/ license.

If the licensing procedure is a change of ownership without extenuating circumstances or requiring review by the Board to determine whether the Applicant is a good risk for licensure, an inspection receipt will be issued after the inspection and just prior to the closing date of the transaction, authorizing the change of ownership pending ratification by the Board at the next regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting. The former license(s) must be surrendered since licenses are not transferable pursuant to OAR 830-040-0040(3). The licenses may be surrendered at the time of the inspection if through the application, background investigation and inspection process, it has been determined that the prospective new owners have the ability to obtain Board licensure without evaluation by the full Board. Licenses may also be mailed to the Board office. Once written confirmation of closing has been received in the Board office from the purchaser (fax is acceptable) and the non-transferable certificates of authority/licenses surrendered, and the Board ratifies the licensure at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting, the new certificate(s) of authority/licenses(s) will be issued. The closing

date of the transaction will be recorded as the effective date of licensure on the certificate(s) of authority/license(s).

Cemetery licenses shall be posted in a conspicuous location for public viewing pursuant to OAR 830-040-0000(12).

In cases where the Board must review the licensing matter to assess whether an Applicant is a good risk for licensure, the Board may deny a new cemetery application or proposed change of ownership for any of the grounds upon which a license may be denied. OAR 830-040-0040(5)(c) & (6)(d) The Board may also deny an application when conditions exist in relation to any principal which constitute grounds for refusing to issue or renew a license or certificate, or for suspension of a license. OAR 830-011-0050(2)

It is the responsibility of compliance staff to provide the Board with sufficient information to allow its members to make an informed judgment as to whether or not an applicant is a good risk for licensure. The Board and/or Board staff may require an Applicant to furnish any information and documents necessary to conduct a thorough background investigation.

Board staff is in a completely neutral position when requesting additional information from an Applicant, as well as when requests are made for corrections to paperwork and facilities pertaining to compliance. The process for review of applications provides for neutral, fair and equal treatment of all Applicants. Expedient cooperation by an Applicant is appreciated in responding to requests for additional information and meeting requested deadlines.

Applicants should be aware that OAR 830-050-0050(4) provides that failure to comply with a Board request may be considered grounds for refusal to approve an application; and OAR 830-030-0090(5)(f) and (g) provides that failing to supply the Board with requested documents within the Board's jurisdiction and failing to answer truthfully and completely matters within the Board's jurisdiction, is grounds for Board action. This may include Board denial of applications for licensure.

CEMETERY PRENEED SALES REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Department of Consumer & Business Services (DCBS): (503) 947-7499 - Salem

Once a cemetery is licensed by the Board, if it intends to sell preneed* cemetery good and services⁵ which are not delivered at the time of purchase, [thus requiring the money to be trusted in a financial institution], the cemetery must register as a Certified Provider with the Department of Consumer and Business Services as required by ORS 97.933 and comply with the reporting requirements outlined in ORS 97.933(3)(a).

*Note: There has been some confusion over what actually constitutes preneed sales requiring registration with DCBS. The sale and conveyance of interment rights in existing plots, crypts or niches does not constitute preneed sales, even when the sale takes place years in advance of death. If a cemetery and their salespeople sell only existing plots, crypts or niches, facility registration with DCBS [and registration of preneed salespersons with the Board] is not required.

⁵ **ORS 97.923** Definitions for ORS 97.923 to 97.949 (9) "Prearrangement sales" or "prearrangement sales contract" means any sale, excluding the sale and contemporaneous or subsequent assignment of a life insurance policy or an annuity contract, made to a purchaser, that has as its purpose the furnishing of funeral or cemetery merchandise or services in connection with the final disposition or commemoration of the memory of a dead human body, for use at a time determinable by the death of the person or persons whose body or bodies are to be disposed and where the sale terms require payment or payments to be made at a currently determinable time. **ORS 97.929(1)** provides that the provisions of ORS 97.923 to 97.949, 97.992, 97.994 and 692.180 do not apply to: (a) Agreements to sell or sales of graves, crypts or niches where such graves, crypts or niches are in existence at the time of the sale or agreement to sell and are located in an endowment care cemetery as defined in ORS 97.810.

ORS 97.933 provides that a provider, as defined in ORS 97.933, may not engage in prearrangement sales or preconstruction sales unless the provider is certified by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

BOARD REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR INDIVIDUALS CONDUCTING PRENEED SALES

All persons who sell preneed cemetery goods and services must apply for a Preneed Salesperson Certificate of Registration from the Board. To apply, a completed application is submitted to the Board with the application fee of \$150.00. A background investigation is performed. Board staff attempts to issue preneed sales certificates of registration as expeditiously as possible. If a person does not have criminal conviction history and does not misrepresent their criminal history on the application, which creates a risk for licensure, generally the preneed sales certificate of registration is issued within a couple of days to a week.

ORS 97.931 provides that a salesperson may not engage in prearrangement sales unless the salesperson is registered with the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board or holds a current funeral service practitioner license, embalmer license, funeral service practitioner apprentice registration or embalmer apprentice registration.

OAR 830-011-0070(2): provides that an individual may not engage in prearrangement or preconstruction preneed sales under ORS 97.923 to 97.949 unless the individual is registered as a "preneed salesperson" with the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board. 830-030-0004(2) Provides that individuals who are currently licensed as a funeral service practitioner or embalmer or certificated as an apprentice funeral service practitioner or apprentice embalmer need not register separately to sell preneed.

CEMETERY CONTRACTS / LANGUAGE & PRENEED SALES PROGRAMS:

Cemetery contracts, (at need, preneed or preconstruction), must contain the following information:

OAR 830-040-0005(1) requires the following contract language: "This facility is licensed and regulated by the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board" followed immediately by the current area code and phone number of the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board.

OAR 830-040-0005(2) requires that all contracts (at need, prearrangement or preconstruction) for death care goods and services have the physical location of the facility printed, in a minimum 10-point font, on the front of the contract.

Cemetery contracts programs must contain the following:

OAR 830-030-0100 Misleading Business Practices (7) Licensees shall, in their sales contracts, include a reasonable period of not less than five days during which purchasers may cancel their funeral or cemetery contracts for undelivered goods and services and for delivered goods that are unused or undamaged, or any contract for interment rights

OTHER LEGAL AUTHORITIES PERTAINING TO MONEY TRUSTED FOR SALES OF PRENEED GOODS AND SERVICES:

The laws pertaining to preneed goods and services trusting requirements were formerly located and outlined in ORS 128.400 - 128.440. The statutes specifically regulating deposits of preneed trust money from endowment care cemeteries were formerly outlined in ORS 128.415.

During the 2001 session, the legislature passed major reforms to Oregon's preneed trust laws. The 2009 edition of ORS 97.923 - 97.949 now contains the laws formerly in ORS Chapter 128.

SEXTON DUTIES

The sexton is the person responsible for receiving casketed remains at the cemetery and documenting the act of final disposition with their signature. The duties of the cemetery sexton pertaining to final disposition at the cemetery include:

1. Prior to accepting the human remains, verifying that human remains are accompanied by a completed permit authorizing final disposition [yellow and green copies of the death certificate, or the Final Disposition Permit used when the death certificate is electronically filed] ORS 432.317(6);
2. Prior to accepting the human remains, verifying that the identifying metal disc is properly secured to the head end of each receptacle containing human remains;
3. Prior to accepting the human remains, verifying that the number on the disc is the same as the number recorded on the final disposition permit/authorization;
4. Signing the yellow and green copies of the permit for final disposition indicating that items 1, 2 and 3 above were completed and recording the date of final disposition.** OAR 830-030-0000(4)(5) & ORS 432.317(7); and
5. Sending the yellow copy of the final disposition permit to the county vital records office within ten days of the date of final disposition and maintain the green copy in the permanent cemetery records. ORS 432.317(7).

For **electronically filed Certificates of Death, completing the bottom portion of the Final Disposition Authorization and signing it; sending one copy of the Authorization to the county vital records office within ten days of the date of final disposition and maintaining one copy in the permanent cemetery records.

Human remains (other than cremated remains) should not be accepted at the cemetery if any of the following is true:

- a) There is no State identification tag attached to the remains (unless the death occurred in another state).
- b) The identification tag number does not match the number on the death certificate/permit for final disposition.
- c) If the permit for final disposition does not contain written authorization for final disposition of the body from the physician who certifies the cause of death as provided in ORS 432.307, or oral authorization from the physician or licensed health professional authorized to give such consent on behalf of the physician, that he/she will certify the cause of death. ORS 432.317(2).

Cremated Remains: If final disposition occurs at a crematory, the green copy of the final disposition permit will remain at the crematory because it is the permit for all methods of final disposition [burial, cremation, shipping remains out of state]. It is not a requirement for cemeteries to have a copy of the permit in their records; many cemeteries request that a copy of the green copy of the permit for final disposition or the death certificate accompany cremated remains if they are to be interred at the cemetery.

INTERMENT OF CASKETED HUMAN REMAINS WITHIN 24 HOURS

OAR 830-040-0000(10) After human remains are released to the cemetery authority, they shall be placed in their designated grave, crypt or vault within 24 hours after taking possession of the remains unless exigent circumstances exist. After human remains are released to the crematory authority, those remains shall be cremated and processed within 48 hours unless exigent circumstances exist. In such exigent circumstances, the cemetery/crematory authority shall notify both the funeral service practitioner responsible for the arrangements and the office of the Board. The funeral service practitioner responsible for the arrangements for that deceased shall notify the family of such exigent circumstances and, at the request of the cemetery authority or crematory, pick up and arrange for proper storage of the remains within 24 hours.

(10) provides that after human remains have been released to the cemetery, they shall be placed in their designated grave, crypt or vault within 24 hours after taking possession of the remains unless exigent circumstances exist. In cases where exigent circumstances exist, the cemetery authority shall notify both the funeral service practitioner responsible for the arrangements and the office of the Board. The funeral service practitioner responsible for the arrangements for the decedent shall notify the family of such exigent circumstances.

PERMANENT RECORDS

All cemeteries are required to record the same minimum information in their permanent records. OAR 830-040-0000(13) provides that the cemetery authority shall keep the Board office informed of the location of their permanent records. These records shall be made available to the Board at any reasonable time.

The following minimum information is required to be kept in the permanent records for each decedent:

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Name of the Decedent | OAR 830-040-0000(6)(a) & ORS 97.720(1) |
| 2. | Metal ID tag number | OAR 830-040-0000(6)(a) |
| 3. | Date of death | OAR 830-040-0000(6)(b) |
| 4. | Name of person arranging for delivery of goods and services and the person authorizing the final disposition | OAR 830-040-0000(6)(c) |
| 5. | The exact location of interment by crypt or niche; or grave, lot and plot | OAR 830-040-0000(6)(d) |
| 6. | The name of the funeral establishment (FSP) or cemetery or crematory personnel responsible for making or for executing the arrangements pertaining to the delivery of goods and services | OAR 830-040-0000(6)(e)
ORS 97.720(1) |
| 7. | Date of interment | ORS 97.720(1) |

In addition to these minimum permanent records, a cemetery, mausoleum or columbarium is required to have the following:

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------------|
| 1. | Descriptive Map or Plat | ORS 97.310(1)(a) & (b) |
| 2. | A record of ownership of graves, crypts or niches | ORS 97.720(2) |
| 3. | Records of all interments | ORS 97.720(1) |
| 4. | Cemetery rules printed and available for inspection | ORS 97.710(3) |
| 5. | Contract language on contracts. | OAR 830-040-0005(1) |
- All contracts used by the cemetery shall contain the following disclosure:
"This facility is licensed and regulated by the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board"
followed immediately by the current area code and phone number of the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board.

CEMETERY RULES

Cemeteries have the latitude to develop rules for the operation of their business as outlined in ORS 97.710 below. The Board does not regulate these rules, but they must be available in printed or typewritten form at the cemetery office for review by any person.

ORS 97.710 Power of cemetery to make rules and regulations - 2009 Edition.

- (1) The cemetery authority may make and enforce rules and regulations for:
 - (a) The use, care, control, management, restriction and protection of its cemetery;
 - (b) Restricting and limiting the use of all property within its cemetery;
 - (c) Regulating the uniformity, class and kind of all markers, monuments and other structures within its cemetery;
 - (d) Prohibiting the erection of monuments, markers or other structures in or upon any portion of its property;
 - (e) Regulating or preventing the erection of monuments, effigies and structures within any portion of the cemetery grounds and for the removal thereof;
 - (f) Regulating the care or preventing the introduction of plants or shrubs within such grounds;
 - (g) Preventing the interment in any part thereof of a body not entitled to interment therein;
 - (h) Preventing the use of burial plots for purposes violative of its restrictions;
 - (i) Regulating the conduct of persons and preventing improper assemblages therein; and
 - (j) All other purposes deemed necessary by the cemetery authority for the proper conduct of its business and the protection and safeguarding of the premises and the principles, plans and ideals on which the cemetery was organized.
- (2) The cemetery authority from time to time may amend, add to, revise, change or modify such rules and regulations.
- (3) Such rules and regulations shall be plainly printed or typewritten and maintained, subject to inspection, in the office of the cemetery authority.

ENDOWMENT CARE CEMETERIES

Cemeteries generally have some type of fund or trust for the general maintenance of the cemetery. Just because a cemetery has a maintenance fund where upon the interest earned is used to maintain a cemetery, it doesn't automatically qualify the cemetery as an "endowment care cemetery." A cemetery cannot hold itself out as an "endowment care cemetery" unless it subjects itself to the provisions of ORS 97.810 to 97.865, which are the statutes pertaining to endowment care cemeteries.

Every cemetery authority that operates a cemetery may place its cemetery under endowed care and establish, maintain and operate an endowment care fund. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a city or county owned cemetery, unless the city or county has elected to subject itself to ORS 97.810 to 97.865. ORS 97.820(1).

Endowment care cemeteries must deposit money into the endowment care fund in accordance with the minimum requirements established in ORS 97.810(2)(a)(b)(c) & (d). While the statutory minimum is based upon and received from the gross sales price of graves, crypts and niches, nothing in the statute prohibits an endowment care cemetery from depositing more than the minimum or from basing deposits on something beyond graves, crypts and niches. Endowment care cemeteries must also file reports and pay fees to the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services as required by ORS 97.810(4) & (7).

ENDOWMENT CARE CEMETERY / DEEDS

Endowment care cemeteries must have the following language on their deeds. ORS 97.810(8):

“This cemetery is an endowment care cemetery”

[This phrase shall be printed or stamped at the head of all contracts, certificates of ownership or deeds referring to plots in an endowment care cemetery in lettering equivalent to at least 10-point No. 2 black type. ORS 97.810(9):]

“Endowment care means the general care and maintenance of all developed portions of the cemetery and memorials erected thereon.”

[This phrase shall be printed in the body of or stamped upon all contracts, certificates of ownership or deeds referring to plots in an endowment care cemetery]

OTHER TYPES OF CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUNDS

Non-Profit Corporation Cemetery Owners

ORS 65.860 provides that a nonprofit corporation may through its bylaws, designate that a stated percentage of the money received from the sale of lots and burial space, cremation of bodies, donations or other sources of revenue be established as an irreducible fund. The interest or income from the irreducible fund may be used for the care and embellishment of the grounds, buildings and property. The principal amount remains constant in trust.

Cemetery Maintenance Districts

ORS 265.140(7) provides that a cemetery maintenance district may set aside, at the discretion of the board of directors, not to exceed one-half of the moneys derived from the sale of cemetery lots and tracts as an irreducible maintenance fund. Any money gift or bequest if so designated in the instrument creating the same, shall be placed and held in the irreducible maintenance fund, and the interest of such fund shall be used in the perpetual upkeep and beautification of the cemetery and lots therein.

Municipal Cemeteries

ORS 226.450 provides that all cities owning and controlling land or lots used for cemetery purposes may expend, for the purposes of beautifying, caring for and keeping all such lands and premises, public funds as have been included for that purpose in their annual budget.

Other

In addition, there are many cemeteries which have set up accounts or invested money for the maintenance of the cemetery in a variety of ways such as savings accounts, bonds or mutual funds.

ADVERTISING

Not all cemeteries elect to advertise. If advertising, the following legal authorities apply:

OAR 830-040-0050 Advertising Provides: (1) Any licensed facility advertising through any media (including but not limited to telephone books, newspapers, direct mail, bill Boards, etc.) shall include the licensed facility's registered name and physical address as it appears on the Board's records.

OAR 830-040-0050(2) Provides that no person, firm or corporation shall advertise, promote, or market at need or preneed funeral arrangements without first having received a license from the Board.

OAR 830-040-0050(3) No cemetery or cremation facility, or person, firm or corporation shall advertise, promote, or market at need or preneed cemetery or cremation plans without first having received either a certificate of authority [License] to operate that cemetery or crematorium.

OAR 830-040-0050(4) No person, firm or corporation shall advertise, promote, or market at need or preneed immediate disposition arrangements without having first registered with the Board.

OAR 830-040-0050(5) provides that any advertisement which intentionally conceals or misstates a material fact shall be considered misrepresentation.

BOARD INSPECTION PROCESS

The Board conducts inspections of all licensed facilities as authorized under ORS 692.320(1)(c)&(2). OAR 830-040-0010(2) provides that every licensee shall accommodate the Inspector or Investigator of the Board in making his/her random inspections unless the licensee can clearly demonstrate that such accommodations will negatively impact the ability to provide scheduled services to consumers or that exigent circumstances exist. ORS 692.275(7)

The aim of the Board's facility inspection is to improve compliance through education while at the same time building a constructive rapport with licensees.

There is no predetermined amount of time for completion of an inspection. An inspection with minimal deficiencies [violations] may take a couple of hours. An inspection with a number of deficiencies may take several hours. The Inspector will inquire if there is a quiet area available for him or her to inspect documents and records. An examination of files and paperwork requires concentration and can be concluded more quickly without interruption. So long as a facility's records are reasonably well organized, the Inspector's presence should not cause any undue interference with business.

Licensees are encouraged to contact the Inspector if they have further questions about the inspection, the inspection follow up letter, need additional time to attain compliance or require technical assistance.

Staff presents the Board with a Board Inspection Receipt at each regularly scheduled meeting. Upon review of an inspection summary, the Board may request an investigative report concerning the violations noted or otherwise direct staff to take further action.

With the exception of egregious or continuing violations, deficiencies noted during routine inspections rarely lead to formal disciplinary action. Deficiencies are documented by means of a hand written inspection receipt signed by a facility representative and the Inspector. Before requesting a signature, the Inspector explains the violations noted, answers questions and negotiates a reasonable time frame for corrective action. In order to insure that licensees are aware of the objective basis for inspection findings, specific reference to pertinent rules and statutes are included in the inspection receipt for each violation noted. A copy is provided to the facility representative upon conclusion of the inspection.

Upon return from the field, the Inspector sends the facility manager an inspection follow-up letter reiterating the violations noted and the due dates for correction. When the Inspector finds price lists, contracts, authorizations or forms with deficiencies, he or she may request corrected copies. For other violations, written confirmation that corrective action has been taken may be required.

Inspection receipts, follow-up letters and corrective action confirmations are retained in the Board's permanent facility inspection files. In order to identify continuing violations and verify that corrective action has been taken, these inspection records are reviewed prior to the next regular inspection.

CEMETERY INSPECTION CHECKLIST

The cemetery inspection checklist is a tool used by the Inspector; primarily it provides a guideline for record keeping requirements, plus a typical checklist for a basic overview of information the Board reviews during a compliance inspection. Although the Board has not adopted rules pertaining to cemetery maintenance, (a common type of consumer complaint received by compliance staff) all licensees are required to keep their premises sanitary. In addition, if the written instrument used to convey rights of interment states the cemetery will perform certain maintenance, failure to do so could be a violation of OAR 830-030-0100(4), or OAR 830-030-0090(1)(b), failing to implement and follow through with contractual arrangements.

The inspection checklist is available upon request and on the Board's website:

http://www.oregon.gov/MortCem/Compliance_Issues.shtml.

COMPLAINTS

What happens if a complaint is filed against a licensee? Pursuant to ORS 692.180 and 692.320, the Board must investigate complaints by a person and also may initiate an investigation. In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act (ORS chapter 183), the Board may take disciplinary action for violations of ORS chapter 692 and OAR chapter 830. The Board may also impose discipline for fraudulent and dishonest conduct or conviction of a crime when such conduct or crime bears a demonstrable relationship to death care industry practice. Additionally, the Board may take action for violations of the following:

- ORS chapter 97, as it relates to the final disposition of human remains and to cemeteries;
- ORS 97.929 and 97.937 limited to three specific kinds of endowment care cemetery preneed sales agreements and related trust deposits;
- ORS chapter 432 and OAR chapter 333 division 11, as they relate to the final disposition of human remains and vital records; and,
- FTC regulations pertaining to funeral industry practices (the Funeral Rule). 16 CFR 453;
- Non-compliance with Oregon Revised Statutes pertaining to the death care industry.

Confidentiality of Complaints

Complaints filed with the Board are confidential and are not subject to public disclosure. The fact that a complaint has been filed against any licensee is not public information. The Board is required by law to keep confidential, to the greatest extent possible, the identity of the complainant and the respondent. Every effort is made to abide by this requirement, while at the same time conducting a fair and thorough investigation.

Investigative Process for Complaints

ORS 676.165 requires that complaints received from a person shall be assigned to an investigator and a report submitted to the Board within 120 days of receipt of the complaint. However, the statute also provides for extensions of time. Due to the workload of the investigative staff and the complexity of many of the complaints received, it could be longer than 120 days before the Board receives a report of investigation. Investigations initiated by the Board are not subject to the 120 day investigative requirement.

Once a complaint is received, it is reviewed by compliance staff, given a case number and assigned to an investigator. The investigator requests a variety of documents and information from the licensee (respondent) who is the subject of the complaint as well as a written response to the allegations in the complaint. Once the information is received from the respondent, the staff investigator reviews the response and /or records, conducts appropriate witness interviews and collects enough information to conclude a fair and accurate inquiry into the issues raised.

The staff investigator then creates a report of investigation that provides the Board with enough information to either affirm or refute the allegations and make a determination as to whether or not a violation has occurred within the jurisdiction of their legal authority. Also, if there is sufficient evidence to show that a

violation has occurred, additional information is included in the investigative report such as aggravating or mitigating factors.

The Board deliberates on each case in a closed executive session. ORS 676.165 and 676.175 specify that the information gathered during the investigation as well as the investigative report are confidential and not subject to public disclosure. The Board votes on investigative matters by the assigned case number in the open session of the Board meeting.

If the Board makes a determination not to initiate disciplinary action against a licensee / respondent, the confidentiality statute does provide that the Board may issue a written summary of information obtained during the investigation to the complainant, if so requested, to the extent necessary to explain the reason(s) for the Board's decision.

Disciplinary Actions

The Board may impose a variety of disciplinary sanctions ranging from a reprimand to license revocation. When the Board initiates disciplinary action in accordance with the Oregon Administrative Procedures Act (ORS 183.310 - 183.550), Board staff issues a Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action to the licensee/respondent. The Notice is essentially a statement of charges against the licensee in question. The Notice contains a timeframe within which a hearing can be requested by the respondent and may specify the level of sanction that has been proposed. The respondent is entitled to a contested case hearing and is afforded every opportunity to exercise that right. If the respondent does not request a hearing within the allotted timeframe, a Final Order is issued by default. If the respondent does request a hearing and does not agree with the Board's final decision, the respondent can appeal to the Oregon Court of Appeals. If there is disagreement with the Court of Appeals' decision, the respondent can appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court.

The Board protects the public by promoting and enforcing compliance with the statutes and rules established for that purpose. Although lacking authority to require payment of compensatory (actual) damages to consumers, the Board may impose civil penalties up to \$1,000 per violation and may negotiate voluntary settlement agreements that provide some measure of restitution to a complainant, in lieu of civil penalties.

Pursuant to ORS 676.175(5), investigative information, Notices, contested case proceedings or any type of Final Orders may not be used as evidence in any civil proceeding except in a proceeding between the Board and the licensee or applicant.

Public Records Request

In March 2007, the Board began posting Notices (proposing disciplinary action) and Orders (Final Orders, Consent Orders) on the OMCB website. Notices and Orders that are not posted on the website are also public record and available upon written request for a fee. Contact the Office Manager, Carla Knapp for information about public records requests - (971) 673-1507

OREGON STATE WEBSITE

The Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS') and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR's) are available through the Oregon State Website: www.oregon.gov

Click on the "popular sites" section on the upper right side of the webpage. Both the ORS' and OAR's are listed in this column. Scroll down to the designated site and click on it.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have compliance, licensing or other questions and/or also need additional information, please contact the Board office:

LICENSING:

Carla Knapp: Licensing Specialist and Office Manager (971) 673-1507
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