



Connecticut Funeral  
Directors Association

# Urgent Information for Funeral Directors in Connecticut

from John Cascio  
CFDA Executive Director  
March 19, 2020

## Cremation Waiting Period Waived for COVID-19 Deaths

As Connecticut has reported the first death from the coronavirus COVID-19 the following message has been sent from James Gill, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, OCME.

According to 19a-323(d) the 48-hour waiting period before a body may be cremated, does not apply to deaths that are a result of communicable disease. COVID-19 deaths are a communicable disease and would not require the 48 hour waiting period. These cremations still require OCME approval.



James Gill, M.D.  
Chief Medical Examiner  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
11 Shuttle Rd  
Farmington, CT 06032

OCME Website: <http://www.ct.gov/ocme/site/default.asp>

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## Facsimile Signatures or Signatures Obtained through DocuSign are Acceptable

Dear Mr. Cascio:

I am writing in response to your inquiry about whether on cremation permits, it is permissible to capture the signature of the custodian of the body through electronic means.

Given Governor Lamont's declaration of a public health emergency in response to the global corona virus pandemic, custodian signatures on cremation permits may be obtained through electronic means. Allowing electronic signatures will enable funeral directors and others involved in the death registration process to avoid direct contact with persons who may have been exposed to the coronavirus, as well as prevent transmission through the exchange of the paper document. The high rate of transmission of this disease and the global effort to curtail its spread warrants this change in policy. The changed policy will remain in effort throughout the duration of this public health emergency.

Facsimile signatures or signatures obtained through DocuSign are acceptable. As a means of authenticating the signature, the custodian's government issued identification (e.g. driver's license, passport) must be submitted along with the cremation permit.

Please direct questions to State Vital Records Registrar's office for further clarification:



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State Vital Records Registrar  
CT Department of Public Health  
(860) 509-7896 / Fax: (860) 509-7964  
[elizabeth.frugale@ct.gov](mailto:elizabeth.frugale@ct.gov) / [www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)