

06/10/2020

Update and Information

Notice to the Membership - June 10, 2020

Registrar's Directives

The CEO/Registrar of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario has issued two new directives regarding the sector's response to COVID-19. If you have not received these directives you can read the complete communications by following the links below.

If you have questions regarding these new directives please join us for the Registrar's Update later today. Information on how to access the session is also below.

[Registrar's Directive June 9 - 10 Person Maximum Still in Effect](#)

[Registrar's Directive June 10 - Drive-Thru Visitations](#)

SPECIAL WEBCAST: COVID-19 BAO UPDATE

COVID-19: Registrar's Update

Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 1:00 PM

COVID-19 Update and Information

Are you wondering:

- How does Stage Two reopening affect the Bereavement Sector?
- Does the reopening of places of worship across the Province apply to Funeral and Burial Services?

The Bereavement Authority of Ontario CEO/Registrar Carey Smith will provide an update and answer these and other questions regarding measures in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This webinar is open and free of charge to all those who work in the bereavement sector.

PLEASE NOTE: This is an update on the ever-changing situation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and is not eligible for CE credit.

[Register Here](#)

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Registrar's Directive: 10 is still the max at funerals, visitations and burials

June 9, 2020

All COVID-19 restrictions and BAO Registrar's Directives remain in place, until further notice.

The maximum number of visitors at a funeral service, visitation and burial remains at 10, regardless of the location.

This Registrar's Directive clarifies for the bereavement sector and the public that **10 is the maximum number of visitors allowed at a funeral/visitation/burial regardless of location**, inside or outside, including an event centre, private club, park, cemetery, church, mosque, synagogue and any religious locations.

If a funeral is conducted in a place of worship, the maximum number of people allowed is 10, notwithstanding the "30% capacity rule" otherwise for places of worship. We have confirmed that the Registrar's Directive is consistent with the Premier's Office announcement of June 8.

The maximum number of 10 includes family, visitors, clergy/officiant and anyone

other than funeral staff.

This Directive is issued to ensure everyone knows that the 10-max Directive is still in place as Ontario enters its reopening phases. This Directive remains in place until further notice.

Thank you.

-Carey Smith, CEO/Registrar

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Registrar's Directive:

Drive-Thru Visitations

Effective today, June 10, 2020

The creativity of licensees is something the bereavement sector can be proud of during this pandemic period. In the last few weeks, the option of drive-thru visitations, with the approval of the police and regional medical officers of health, have been carried out by several funeral homes across Ontario, as those communities find ways to address the needs of grieving families while following all COVID-19 restrictions.

This Registrar's Directive supports this creativity with a set of safety-focused and respectful rules that must be followed **if you choose** to offer drive-thru visitations at your funeral home.

All other COVID-19 government restrictions, Registrar's Directives, Notices to the Profession and Guidance must continue to be followed.

Directive Measures – Effective June 10, 2020

For a drive-thru service, mourners may drive to a funeral home's outside

designated area to pay their respects to the deceased and the family.

If needed, funeral homes may add a secure tent or canopy on funeral home property to accommodate a drive-thru area.

Drive-thru visitations require a safe –

- **Appropriately laid-out funeral establishment property** on which to host these visitations. The property must be large enough to accommodate a line of vehicles. The line must not extend onto public streets, sidewalks or other people's property.
- **Marked, designated lane or path** on the funeral home property for automobiles to line-up and drive in toward the designated viewing area, such as a window, entranceway or tent/canopy area.
- **Designated viewing area** where the decedent's family can gather, in a group of fewer than 10 (observing physical distancing of two metres), to acknowledge those in their vehicles.
- **A funeral home traffic coordinator, if** the line of vehicles exceeds the capacity of the funeral home's parking property, in order to ensure people do not exit their vehicles and come in contact with other passengers and drivers, and to maintain general safety.

Prohibited are –

- **Standing outside of vehicles.** Mourners must stay inside their vehicles.
- **Mixing of vehicles and people,** standing outside, in a line-up.

-Carey Smith, CEO/Registrar

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