

# OKLAHOMA FUNERAL BOARD



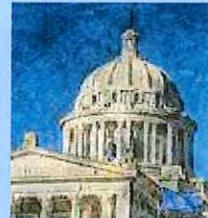
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## From the Director

One or more hours of Continuing Education can be attained by attending a Funeral Board meeting. The next meeting will be **February 14, 2013 in the Oklahoma State Capitol, Room 104.**

Greetings and Happy New Year. With the legislative session starting soon, the Board is working to achieve three separate legislative actions this year. The first being a requested Statute change which is Senate Bill 0551 and mirrored in House Bill 1826. Please see the proposed language at this link: <http://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=sb551&Session=1300>. This bill does many things, but the more popular provisions concern the requirements for removal of human remains from the place of death. The Board's proposal allows any employee to make a first call, regardless of family presence during the time of removal. The other two Bills are related to agency Board Rules. We will have the Rule Joint Resolutions later in Febru-

ary. One aspect of the proposed rules allows an employee to stay at the graveside side after the ceremony to ensure the proper closing of the grave. The proposed rules will allow the agency to better enforce existing



*1st Session of the 54th Legislature begins February 4, 2013*

laws and uphold the integrity of the industry. Also included, is an increase in agency fees. Please see re-

lated language at this link; <http://www.okfuneral.com/news/FY13%20RULES%20T.O.%20SEND%20OUT.pdf> Currently, we are in the thirty day comment period regarding any Rules changes which ends February 14. If you have questions or concerns about the Rules please email [info@okfuneral.com](mailto:info@okfuneral.com). At the February Board meeting the Funeral Board will receive any vocal concerns by any groups or individuals. If you would like to share your thoughts please attend this meeting or submit your comments. In closing please read the committee update below. -Mark

## A Common Question

Who has the right to control disposition? Please familiarize yourself with the law <http://www.oscn.net/applications/OCISWeb/deliverdocument.asp?citeID=69626>

Need legal advice about the above?

Please contact an attorney. The Oklahoma Funeral Board can not provide legal advice regarding who is in charge of the arrangements.

Over the past several months our committee has been honored to be able to provide some input from the field. Since, we have entered a new year and welcomed a new committee member, the committee thought it might be beneficial to reiterate the topics previously covered. #1, It is the committee's initial finding that a significant budget increase is needed to maintain and improve public protection, industry protection and develop new state laws, while sustaining self-sufficiency by never seeking appropriations from the general fund. # 2, It is the committee's recommendation that the Oklahoma Funeral Board introduce a new state license for a certified Funeral Director Assistant, with no more than one assistant per li-

censed Funeral Director. We would also suggest the licensing fees and requirements for the Funeral Directors Assistant be set and maintained by the Oklahoma Funeral Board. # 3, It is the committee's recommendation that funeral homes or any firm representing a funeral homes should not represent any pre-need product as guaranteed. If guaranteed pre-needs continue it is the committee's recommendation that they be held to a low percentage of a firms total pre-need holdings. By not allowing pre-need funerals to be guaranteed or at the least controlling the percentage of total guaranteed pre-needs it would increase consumer protection

and maintain the high ethical standards that the funeral industry in Oklahoma has always practiced under. # 4, It is the committee's findings that there is no one against us (the funeral industry in Oklahoma) and we must no longer slow the evolution of our abilities to meet the needs of our communities in a prosperous manner. If an elected official, reporter, or any external entity asks what is the direction of Oklahoma's funeral industry, the Funeral Industry must have one united answer. To gain any ground in this new economy, we must all walk together.

## Committee Updates