

## Local Events

### Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board Meetings

#### 2022 Meeting Dates

Tuesday, January 11th  
Tuesday, April 12th  
Tuesday, July 12th  
Tuesday, October 11th

Please note:

Meetings will typically be held at the Portland State Office Building (PSOB), but the official location will be identified at least one week prior to Board meeting on the agenda notice available on the OMCB website.

For official location information, you can contact the OMCB at 971.673.1500

#### Funeral Service Practitioner & Death Care Consultant Exam Schedule

(Exams Held At the Portland State Office Building (PSOB))

TBA

#### OFDA Events

2022 Convention  
June 6-8th  
Seaside Convention Center  
Seaside, Oregon

#### CAO Events

TBA

## National Events

#### January 2022

12-14th  
ICCFA  
DEAD Talks Sales Conference  
Bally's Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, NV

#### March 2022

22-25th  
ICCFA  
Annual Convention & Expo  
Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

#### April 2022

April 29th-May 1st  
NFDA  
Professional Women's Conference  
Venue TBA  
Miami, FL

#### May 2022

4-6th  
NFDA  
Advocacy Summit  
Venue TBA  
Washington D.C.

#### July 2022

10-13th  
NFDA  
Leadership Conference  
Walt Disney World's Yacht & Beach Club Resort  
Orlando, FL

#### October 2022

9-12th  
NFDA  
2022 NFDA Annual Convention & Expo  
Venue TBA  
Baltimore, MD



# The Communicator

## September/October 2021

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## Domicile Unknown Reporting

*Reprinted from the Oregon Health Authority newsletter, Matters Of Record, November 2021*

The passing of Senate Bill 850 will establish mandatory reporting of housing status on reports of death. On January 1, 2022, there will be a statewide requirement that data is collected on homeless individuals who have died.

Beginning January 1, 2022, death records for individuals who were homeless at the time of death must list "Domicile Unknown" in the Street Name field on the Resident Address page in OVERS. This includes decedents who were homeless but receiving care at a hospital or other institution.

***Please see Page 4 of this newsletter for further details and a visual of where "Domicile Unknown" should be listed in OVERS for decedents who were homeless at the time of death.***

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(503) 639.1186

Portions of this newsletter  
are taken from other  
sources and may not  
represent all available data  
or be complete statements.  
An attorney or accountant  
should be consulted on any  
legal or tax matters.  
Conclusions are based on  
our best analysis of  
industry information  
sources.

#### OFDA Officers

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Executive Director  
Wally Ordeman

## President's Letter

To our membership:

We have all lost a relative or friend because of COVID and no one in this world will go untouched. But we are in the death care profession and sometimes we are called to take care of our family and friends and that makes it sometimes so very hard for each of us. I am writing this not to say that everyone needs to get vaccinated; but rather I am sharing my thoughts on our own mental health which I feel many of us forget about and it's important to take a moment to think and reflect about one another. We all have feelings and sometimes we hurt and just need to be asked how we are doing and we should remember to ask others how are they doing also. Once again please remember that it takes us all to make the one and also choose kindness for everyone you meet.

Sincerely yours,

Alan Burns  
OFDA President

## Executive Director's Letter

Greetings to all of my OFDA colleagues,

This past year and a half has presented unprecedented challenges to our industry. Managing Covid and all of the repercussions of a pandemic has funeral directors exhausted from surges, overwhelming case loads, and constantly changing regulations/guidelines; vendors stretched thin from trying to keep the industry supplied while dealing with broken supply chains and staffing shortages; and grieving families reeling from an indiscriminate disease that picked off victims one unsuspecting person at a time.

I recently told a reporter, "If hospitals are overwhelmed then you can bet that funeral homes are as well." It caught that reporter off guard and she replied, "That never dawned on me. Operating a funeral home during a pandemic must be so difficult."

I hope that your client families have been gracious and patient as all of you strive to maintain your professionalism and service.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I hope that each and every one of you can take a step back and breathe, connect with those who care so much for your mental well being, and then give thanks for the positives in your world. There are many, and I know I'll be making a mental list of all the things I'm thankful for. Near the top of that list will be all of you. An association is only as strong as its members and the leaders you have chosen, and your loyalty to OFDA is something I am truly thankful for. Mia and the Board and I will continue to work very hard on your behalf.

Please be well and know that you are respected and admired by your colleagues and the people you are serving.

Happy Thanksgiving and Holidays everyone,

Wally Ordeman  
Executive Director

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(Photos from Loveland Funeral Chapel Facebook Page)

Loveland Funeral Chapel is owned and operated by Kevin Loveland, with Union County's only crematory. Loveland has been a part of the Grand Ronde Valley since 1922, coming under Kevin's ownership in 1999. With an onsite crematory and pet cremation services, Loveland Funeral Chapel is dedicated to serving all of their community's needs. Their pet cremation services include both communal and private cremations, with complimentary pick up from veterinarian facilities in Union County as well as the option of home pick up for a nominal charge, or the family can bring in their pet personally. They also offer personalized urns with photos and name plates for pet cremation.

Loveland Funeral Chapel is a very active member in their community. This year, they sponsored the Union County Country Club's second annual trick-or-treating event. They are also sponsors for the LHS senior class activities and UC Lightning Softball for girls ages 8 to 16 in Union County. One of the ways that Loveland Funeral Chapel shows their dedication to serving their community is through their Safe Ride Program. In 2001, Kevin created the Safe Ride Program in honor of his best friend Bret Marten who died in an alcohol related automobile accident on July 17, 1997. The Safe Ride Program offers a free, safe ride home from major events in Union County where alcohol is served. It is supported by the Union County District Attorney's office, Legacy Ford, Goss Motors and Frontier Motors who provide up to four vehicles at large events. In 2017, the Safe Ride Program was awarded the DUII Group/Organization Advocate of the Year Award from the Oregon DUII Multi-Disciplinary Training Task Force.

Jerry Hopkins, lead driver and program coordinator, credits the support of the community, and especially law enforcement officers, as one of the reasons the program is successful. Hopkins is assisted by at least seven volunteer drivers, including Jon Wagner, Jeromy Matheson, Ryan Tsiatsos, Bailey Blagg, James Eby and Ian Murphy, the manager of Loveland Funeral Chapel.

This program has seen several milestones since its inception in 2001. On New Year's Day 2012, the program achieved a major goal of not having a single DUI citation issued from New Year's Eve celebrations. In June 2021, the program provided its 100,000th safe ride home. The program has seen phenomenal growth, expanding from only providing rides home on New Year's Eve, to providing rides from rodeo events, graduation celebrations and banquets for groups like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Hunters Association, Ducks Unlimited and National Rifle Association.

Kevin and Loveland Funeral Chapel are dedicated to commemorating every life lived and creating the most personal and meaningful tribute. Even though they cannot make the pain go away, they believe that by working with every family, together they can make the journey of grief less lonely and just a bit easier.



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## Senate Bill 850 and Domicile Unknown Reporting

The passing of [Senate Bill 850](#) established mandatory reporting of housing status on reports of death.

Beginning January 1, 2022 there will be a statewide requirement that reports of death list the residence address as “**Domicile Unknown**” for decedents who were homeless at the time of death. Enter “**Domicile Unknown**” in the Street Name field on the Resident Address page in OVERS. This includes decedents who were homeless but receiving care at a hospital or other institution.

While there are several terms used to describe a homeless individual including houseless, unhoused and people without housing, the phrase used in Senate Bill 850 is “a decedent who was homeless.”

A homeless individual is defined as:

- An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;
- An individual with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
- An individual living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing);
- An individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;

Click [here](#) for the U.S. Code for the complete general definition of a homeless individual that includes additional examples.

On the **Resident Address** page in OVERS, the funeral service practitioner is responsible for listing “**Domicile Unknown**” in the **Street Name, Rural Route, etc.** field for individuals who were homeless at the time of the death.

The screenshot shows the 'Resident Address' section of the OVERS system. The 'Street Name, Rural Route, etc.' field is highlighted with a red circle and contains the text 'Domicile Unknown'. Other fields include Street Number (Unknown), Pre Directional (Unknown), Street Designator (Unknown), Post Directional (Unknown), Apt. #, Suite #, etc. (Unknown), City or Town (Portland), County (Clackamas), State (Oregon), Country (United States), and Zip Code (97068). The 'Inside City Limits' field is set to 'Unknown'.

Other fields on the Resident Address page should be filled out to the best of the user or informant’s knowledge. “Unknown” can be entered in the Street Number, City or Town, and Inside City Limits fields. “Unknown” **cannot** be entered in the County, State, Country, or Zip Code fields. **Do NOT** enter “Unknown,” “Homeless,” “Houseless” or “None” in the “Street Name, Rural Route, etc.” field for homeless decedents.

**Do Not** enter approximate locations of where a person was camping like “the corner of Halsey and 72<sup>nd</sup> streets”. Only enter “**Domicile Unknown**.”

For questions about registering death records for decedents who were homeless at the time of death, email [CHS.Registration@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:CHS.Registration@dhsosha.state.or.us).



We almost sold our business a few years ago, but the process was a struggle and the deal fell through at the last minute. In hindsight, it was the best thing that could have happened for us. Once we started working with Foundation Partners, it was an entirely different experience since their values and mission closely aligned with our own. They

genuinely cared about what was important to us – the continuation of our legacy and ensuring our staff will be well taken care of and provided opportunities to grow. We didn’t sell to someone who is only interested in our business for a profit. We sold to someone like us – funeral home owners who care about families and the communities they serve.

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## Technology Solutions Built to Better Serve Families

Matthews Aurora™ Funeral Solutions is focused on helping families move from grieving to remembrance and helping deathcare professionals simplify and enhance the way they do business. Our portfolio of technology solutions consistently identifies new ways to help you serve families and adapt to customer expectations.

**For more information contact your Matthews Aurora™ Funeral Service Consultant or visit [matthewsaurora.com](http://matthewsaurora.com)**

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### Matthews Technology Solutions include:

#### Arranger

An interactive presentation system that helps funeral professionals simplify the arrangement process and sell better funerals.

#### Family Connections

Provide families with a private planning website to review and select services, merchandise and record biographical information prior to the in-person arrangement.

#### Advisor

A comprehensive case management and forms automation system that integrates the interactive arrangement presentation and family planning website into a business operating system for large or small funeral homes.



Attention OFDA Members –

Beginning Fall 2021, Community Tissue Services will begin recovering full-thickness Skin Allografts used for direct Transplant on immediate Cremation, non-viewing Donors.

Full-thickness Skin Allografts provide a dense layer of nutrient-rich antibodies and cells, covering severe burn victims. Full-thickness Allografts as opposed to split-thickness Allografts provide coverage of a larger surface area and douses recipients in nutrients, often resulting in a quick and effective recovery.

Full-thickness Skin recovery will only occur for those Donors who are eligible, whose family has consented for this recovery, and are arranged for immediate cremation with no viewings.

The assistance we are providing Funeral Homes includes and is not limited to:

- Community Tissue Services' Funeral Home Reimbursement Fee Schedule & Form
- Union-all suit
- Family resources regarding Anatomical Donation

Please direct your questions to:

Heidi Stewart, Community Development Coordinator  
[hstewart@communitytissue.org](mailto:hstewart@communitytissue.org)  
503-408-9394 x5714

In gratitude,

*Community Tissue Services*



Community Tissue Services  
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## Medical Relief Benefits in Rules Addressing the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in All Workplaces

Reprinted from an Oregon OSHA Press Release, Sept. 14, 2021

Oregon OSHA is making a substantive change to OAR 437-001-0744; Rule Addressing COVID-19 Workplace Risks (COVID-19 rule) in response to federal OSHA's Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) appearing in the Federal Register on June 21, 2021 in relation to the Medical Relief Benefit for workers in healthcare settings. The amendment also makes a non-substantive title change in relation to the Oregon Health Authority rule that is referenced in the standard.

Oregon OSHA conducted a side-by-side evaluation of the ETS and found that Oregon OSHA's COVID-19 rules to be generally as effective as federal OSHA, with the exception of the Medical Relief Benefit (MRB) component. In response to this assessment, Oregon OSHA convened the COVID-19 Rulemaking Advisory Committees to review the MRB and its application in Oregon and to specifically discuss Oregon OSHA's requirement to be "at least as effective as" federal OSHA. The MRB provides some financial relief for workers in healthcare; as defined by the federal standard, when the need for the medical removal is met under the provisions listed in the rule. This temporary rulemaking is necessary to align the Oregon OSHA with the federal temporary emergency standard and to ensure that the "at least as effective" standard is met. The amendment is effective September 16, 2021.

Additionally, on August 27, 2021 the Oregon Health Authority adopted a temporary amendment to their rule OAR 333-019-1025 which changed the name to "Masking Requirements for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces" and included masking provisions for outdoor spaces.

Oregon OSHA has the authority to enforce rules adopted by other state agencies under ORS 654.025(3)(a). This temporary rulemaking is necessary to make it clear that Oregon OSHA intends to exercise that authority in relation to OAR 333-019-1025; Masking Requirements for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces, adopted by the Oregon Health Authority. Please visit [osha.oregon.gov/rules](https://osha.oregon.gov/rules) to view our adopted rules.

## The Mt. Hood Funeral Service Program Needs Your Help!

Mt. Hood Community College Funeral Services Program has a **consistent need for bodies** so students can get the necessary personal experience in the lab (embalming, other preparation). **Transportation reimbursement is now available!**

**MHCC will pay \$150.00 each way. Funeral homes can use this program to offer free embalming to families - and the families can know they are helping a great educational facility where our new or future funeral directors and embalmers learn their profession. If you bring us a body for embalming, and then pick it up again, you can bill the college for \$300.00.**

**It is essential that written permission from the family be obtained before bringing any bodies to the lab.**

**Indigent bodies may be embalmed as well. For more information, contact Terri Makinson at 503.419.7967**



**We are working on the body acceptance process at this time, and will keep the OFDA informed about our embalming lab status. Bodies which have tested negative for COVID-19 will be considered for donation.**

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## Combat Status

Reprinted from the Oregon Health Authority newsletter, *Matters Of Record*, September 2021

In 2011, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3611 which mandates the collection of veterans' combat information on death certificates. When creating a death record for a decedent who served in the military, it is very important that the veteran portion of the record is answered completely, including whether the veteran served in combat. Oregon Vital Records sends monthly reports to funeral homes that contain data on how many "unknowns" were listed for combat status.

Beginning September 2021, The Center for Health Statistics will be calling funeral homes that have a high reporting of "Unknown" for combat status for decedents who were veterans. Funeral homes may be asked to contact families to retrieve the combat status of their loved one in instances where it was not reported on the death certificate.

On the Decedent page in OVERS, there is a field titled Ever in U.S. Armed Forces? If the decedent served in the U.S. Armed Forces, a follow-up question is asked to determine whether the decedent served in combat. If the decedent did serve in combat, a third question collects information on the location of the combat zones in which the decedent served.

We are striving for as few Unknown responses as possible. The informant or family member may not know if or where the decedent was in combat. In this case, "Unknown" is accurate. The key thing is to make sure the informant was asked the question. Please don't select "Unknown" without first asking.

Collecting veterans' combat status and location of combat zones information is important in several ways. This data provides valuable information for public health studies focusing on veterans. There are concerns about the long-term impact of military service and multiple deployments on veterans' physical and mental health. The information helps researchers identify factors associated with death or death by suicide. The findings may be useful for the development of future public health intervention programs.

You can help improve the responses to the combat status question by taking the following actions:

- Review the death certificate worksheet that you use to gather information from an informant to make sure that the two questions on veterans' combat status and combat zones are being asked.
- Please ask the informant: a) whether the decedent served in combat, and, if yes, b) the location of the combat zone(s) in which they served.

- Train and remind funeral home staff to ask the veterans' combat status and combat zone questions for all decedents who were veterans. CHS has resources available on our website including the death certificate worksheet and a list of combat zones.

For questions about combat status reporting for veteran decedents, contact Nick Bickford at 971.673.1163 or Nick.Bickford@dhsosha.state.or.us.

## Vital Records Fees For Oregonians Affected by a State or Federal Emergency Declaration

Reprinted from the Oregon Health Authority newsletter, *Matters Of Record*, October 2021

The Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division has proposed rule OAR 333-011-0338 relating to fees for vital records. This rule will be adopted and go into effect on November 1, 2021 and will apply to requests for records received on and after June 1, 2021. It is intended to relieve the burden of certain fees for copies of and searches for vital records for Oregonians who have experienced loss of property or life due to or associated with a state or federal emergency declaration.

The Center for Health Statistics Vital Records office may provide up to three (3) certified copies of a birth, death, marriage, divorce, domestic partnership or dissolution of domestic partnership record with a zero fee to eligible requests in connection with a state or federal emergency declaration.

**-Or-**

Oregon State County Vital Records offices, within the first 6 months of an event, may provide up to three (3) certified copies of death or birth records with a zero fee to eligible requests in connection with a state or federal emergency declaration.

Applicants must state the reason for ordering the record(s) as "Emergency Declaration" to qualify for the zero fee. All other fees such as expediting a request for an order or amending a record will still be charged.

On November 1, see our website for additional information regarding the vital records fees for Oregonians affected by a state or federal emergency declaration including Frequently Asked Questions and Step-by-Step Directions for the zero fee in OVERS.

For questions regarding OAR 333-011-0380 rule and how it may impact your county, contact Partner Services Agency Liaison, Dani Hall at Dancia.O.Hall@dhsosha.state.or.us.

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### Help Wanted

Rest Haven Memorial Park Funeral Home in Eugene has an opening for a licensed funeral director/embalmer

If you are interested in joining our firm, please contact us at:

Rest Haven Memorial Park Funeral Home

3900 Willamette St  
Eugene OR 97405  
541.345.8521  
[office@rest-haven.org](mailto:office@rest-haven.org)

### Help Wanted

Skyline Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home in Portland, Oregon, is looking to hire a new funeral director or apprentice -

The job is posted for candidates to apply at:  
<https://jobs.sci-corp.com/portland-or/funeral-director/3898AB57F5214E898195F3BACEB207ED/job/>

### For Sale - Time To Retire After 45 Years

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## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Funeral Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We are dedicated to helping ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus.

**FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.**



**To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:**

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to or caused by COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien.

### Which expenses will qualify for reimbursement?

Examples of eligible expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation may include, but not limited to:

- Transportation for up to two people to identify the deceased individual
- The transfer of remains, a casket or urn
- A burial plot or cremation niche
- A marker or headstone
- Clergy or officiant services
- The arrangement of a funeral ceremony
- The use of funeral home equipment or staff
- Cremation or interment costs
- Costs associated with producing multiple death certificates

### What information do I need to provide to FEMA?

Please have the following information before contacting FEMA to apply:

- Your name, social security number, date of birth, mailing address and contact phone numbers.
- The name, social security number and date of birth for each deceased individual.
- The location or address where the deceased individual passed away.
- Documentation and receipts for any assistance already received from other sources, including burial or funeral insurance, donations, voluntary agencies, other government programs or non-profit organizations.
- If you and another person both incurred funeral expenses for the same deceased individual(s), you can also provide that person as a co-applicant — include their name, social security number and date of birth on the application.

### HOW DO I APPLY FOR THIS ASSISTANCE?

Call FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline at 1-844-684-6333 (TTY: 800-462-7585) from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET, Monday – Friday and begin the application process.

For fastest service following your application, you can begin submitting documentation online through [Disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov), by fax 855-261-3452.

Documents may also be mailed to:  
COVID-19 Funeral Assistance  
P.O. Box 10001  
Hyattsville, MD 20782



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

You can also visit us online at [FEMA.gov/funeral-assistance/faq](https://FEMA.gov/funeral-assistance/faq). Information is provided in several languages both by telephone and the website.



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Byron Ball was a beloved family man, a kind soul, and a gifted high school science teacher. Byron loved sharing his enthusiasm for the natural world with his students in the classroom and beyond: on field trips to the Oregon coast, Jewel Meadows, Sauvie Island, and central Oregon. Byron made the world of science a real hands-on experience, beyond just the pages of his students' books.

In 2015, Byron was diagnosed with cancer. He and his family knew for several months that this was a battle he would not win. During this window of time, the family gathered, spent time together, put things in order, and also discuss the possibility of donation. While his family knew that Byron's cancer would not allow him to be an organ donor, they did think he might still be able to donate his corneas. And so on the morning of Byron's death, at home and surrounded by loved ones – his family called Lions VisionGift and were able to honor Byron's wishes.

Byron's corneas provided the gift of sight to two recipients who can now enjoy the beauty of nature: birds and animals, the sun and stars and sky, green spaces, waterways, and—probably most importantly— the faces of their own loved ones.

*"When somebody's life is saved because they got a new heart or they got a new kidney - that's amazing. But so is the gift of sight - that's amazing! Ask somebody who is looking at the face of their newborn child, or ask somebody who's seeing their first sunrise or fireworks - isn't that amazing!" – Patrice Ball*