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Requirement for Authorization- Funeral Services or Disposition

Consumer Protection BC has been responding to issues involving the provision of funeral services by licensed BC funeral providers prior to the proper authorization being received from the person(s) who have the right to control the disposition of the human remains.

Consumer Protection BC wishes to reiterate and clarify the specific obligations of funeral providers under the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act* (CIFSA) as they relate to the initiation and provision of funeral services.

Funeral services includes:

- (a) arrangements and services related to the interment or cremation of human remains,
- (b) care and preparation of human remains for purposes related to paragraph (a),
- (c) bereavement rites and ceremonies, and
- (d) the supply of goods incidental to and as part of the arrangements, services, care, preparation and bereavement rites and ceremonies referred to in paragraphs (a) to (c), but does not include the sale of rights of interment or the disposition of human remains by interment or cremation;

Section 8 of the CIFSA states that a funeral provider must not provide funeral services unless the funeral provider has received written authorization from the person who, under section 5 [*control of disposition of human remains or cremated remains*], has the right to control the disposition of the human remains. However, a funeral provider may accept an authorization by telephone to begin funeral services if the funeral provider does not dispose of the human remains until the funeral provider receives the written authorization required.

Please note that under all circumstances, a funeral provider must not provide funeral services until they receive authorization from the person with the right to control the disposition of the

human remains as detailed in [section 5\(1\) of the CIFSA](#). The right to control disposition only exists after the passing of the decedent. Pickup and/or transferring of human remains are both considered funeral services. Under all circumstances, disposition is not permissible until written authorization is attained.

You can find further information:

- Consumer Protection BC Funeral Portal: funeralrightsbc.ca
- CIFSA: [legislation](#), [regulations](#)
- Information about [final disposition](#)

Consumer Protection BC is a not-for-profit corporation that was created to strengthen consumer protection in BC and enforce consumer protection laws. We license and inspect specific industries, respond to inquiries through our Inquiry Centre, investigate alleged violations of consumer protection laws, and educate consumers and businesses about their rights and responsibilities under the law. For more information about our organization, please visit our corporate website at www.consumerprotectionbc.ca. Follow Consumer Protection BC on Twitter [@ConsumerProBC](#), like us [on Facebook](#) and [read our blog](#) for valuable tips and resources.

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