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CEMETERY AND FUNERAL SERVICES

BC FUNERAL DIRECTOR & EMBALMER
ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS – BRITISH COLUMBIA - NOC 6272

It is mandatory to be licensed by Consumer Protection BC, the provincial licensing and regulatory body, and be employed by a licensed funeral provider to practice and use the title of "Licensed Funeral Director" or "Licensed Embalmer" in the Province of British Columbia.

BASIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND/OR EMBALMER IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Educational Requirements

Applicants must be a graduate of the approved two-year apprenticeship program in funeral education as offered by the Funeral Service Association of BC (a registered Private Post-Secondary Training Institution). The program includes practical experience in both funeral directing and embalming (website: <http://www.bcfunerals.com/careers.html>).

Examination Requirements

The acceptable standard for passing any examination or final grade in any subject is seventy (70) percent. The only exception to the application of this standard is on the Embalming and Funeral Service Practicum courses that are graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Each student must complete a practical embalming operation. There is no provincial or national examination.

Supervised fieldwork/practical training

All applicants must complete thirty-six hundred (3600) hours of supervised fieldwork/practical training and must complete fifty (50) embalming operations and be involved directly with the process of making fifty (50) funeral arrangements during the two-year apprenticeship program. Training must be undertaken in British Columbia.

Language requirements

Applicants must be proficient in English

Canadian citizenship

Canadian citizenship is not required to be licensed. Non-citizens are not required to have an approved immigration visa.

Residence requirements

Applicants must reside in British Columbia to be licensed.

Fees

Becoming a member of a regulated occupation usually requires the payment of fees for some activities. This list is not necessarily complete and the activities listed are subject to change at any time. Applicants should check with the regulatory organization for an up to date list of activities and their cost.

The following activities require payment of a fee:

- issuance of initial license
- annual dues to maintain license
- membership in association
- challenge of Trade Qualification Examination

QUALIFICATION RECOGNITION PRACTICES: for applicants qualified as a funeral director or embalmer in another province or territory

Documentation

Persons qualified as a Funeral Director or Embalmer elsewhere in Canada who want to be licensed by the Director, Consumer Protection BC should provide the following documentation:

- Trades Qualification Certification/Diploma or equivalent from other regulatory body, or proof of good standing with other regulatory body (the Director reserves the right to contact any other jurisdiction to verify documents submitted).
- three letters of reference
- proof of work experience

Academic Qualifications Assessment

Applicants are required to complete an application form detailing qualifications. The applicant may be required to satisfy the Director as to academic competency and understanding of the applicable provincial legislation. The Director or designate may conduct this assessment. This applies equally to funeral directors and embalmers.

Applicants must submit evidence that they have successfully completed the legislation module and associated legislation exam of the BC funeral service education program administered by the Funeral Service Association of BC. They may be contacted at 211 - 2187 Oak Bay Avenue, Victoria, BC V8R1G1, by e-mail at info@bcfunerals.com or by phone at 1-800-665-3899;

Additional supervised fieldwork/practical training

Applicants qualified and licensed elsewhere in Canada are not required to complete additional academic courses or a supplementary program of study if they have graduated from a recognized funeral service program.

QUALIFICATION RECOGNITION PRACTICES: for applicants qualified as a funeral director or embalmer in another country

Documentation

Persons qualified as a Funeral Director or Embalmer in another country who want to be licensed by the Director, Consumer Protection BC should provide the following documentation:

- Trades Qualification Certification/Diploma or equivalent from other regulatory body, or proof of good standing with other regulatory body (the Director reserves the right to contact any other jurisdiction to verify documents submitted).
- three letters of reference
- course descriptions in field of study
- proof of work experience
- proof of continuing professional development

Applicants must provide official translations for all documents in a foreign language. Certified copies are acceptable.

Academic qualification assessment

Applicants are required to complete an application form detailing qualifications. The applicant may be required to satisfy the Director as to academic competency and understanding of the applicable provincial legislation.

Applicants must submit evidence that they have successfully completed the legislation module and associated legislation exam of the BC funeral service education program administered by the Funeral Service Association of BC. They may be contacted at 211 - 2187 Oak Bay Avenue, Victoria, BC V8R1G1, by e-mail at info@bcfunerals.com or by phone at 1-800-665-3899;

Additional supervised fieldwork/practical training

Additional fieldwork/practical training may be required for applicants qualified in another country.

Applicants qualified in another country may be required to satisfactorily complete additional academic courses or a supplementary program of study, depending on regulations and statutes in the country where they studied.

Temporary Licensing

Temporary and provisional licenses are not available.

Residency upon Request for Assessment

Applicants may reside anywhere in Canada or in another country when they request to have their qualifications recognized. Non-citizens are not required to have an approved immigration visa.

National/Provincial Association Role

Membership with the national or provincial association is not required before applying to the Business Practices & Consumer Protection Authority for licensing.

Preparation Materials

The Funeral Service Association of BC is able to provide information regarding the requirements to help prepare applicants for licensing.

Contact Information

Education:

Funeral Service Association of British Columbia
211 - 2187 Oak Bay Avenue
Victoria, British Columbia V8R 1G1

Tel: (250) 592-3213
Toll free in Canada only: 1 800 665-3899
E-mail: info@bcfunerals.com

Licensing:

Consumer Protection BC
PO Box 9244
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9J2

Telephone: 604-320-1664
Facsimile: 250 920-7181
Toll free: 1 888 777-4393

This information was last updated August 31st, 2009. It is deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Information should be verified with the individual organization.