

Deceased Management Advisory Group

National Care Association
National Care Forum
Registered Nursing Home Association Ltd.

20 April 2020

Dear Colleagues

COVID-19

The members of the Deceased Management Advisory Group (DMAG) has been established during the pandemic to co-ordinate death care management with the UK Government and devolved government's. We hold weekly meetings with the Cabinet Office, Department of Health and Social Care; Department of Work and Pensions; as well as daily input with the Ministry of Justice.

We are representative trade bodies, which includes the following UK associations:

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| - Association of Private Crematoria and Cemeteries | APCC |
| - Federation of Burial and Crematoria Association | FBCA |
| - Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers Association | FFMA |
| - Institute of Crematorium and Cemetery Management | ICCM |
| - National Association of Funeral Directors | NAFD |
| - National Society of Allied & Independent Funeral Directors | SAIF |
| - The Cremation Society | Cremation Society |

At a local level we are pleased that our members in funeral service and yours among care and nursing homes have a close working relationship with a shared objective to provide the very best care to families towards the end of life.

This relationship continues to depend on cooperation and we celebrate good examples of joint working between care homes and funeral directors.

We write today with the aim of further strengthening partnership working in the sphere of caring for the victims of Covid-19 and their families.

We would like to reinforce the practice of disclosing any infectious disease risks to funeral home staff when collecting deceased persons from care home settings.

This is particularly important in the current pandemic. Like care home staff, funeral directors are on the frontline and we are working hard to minimise staff absences caused by the spread of coronavirus.



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It's well documented that both our respective sectors have faced significant challenges in securing PPE. It is therefore essential that funeral directors are able to use stocks sparingly and only when required.

The situation requires all hands on deck to ensure the deceased management process runs smoothly and families don't face significant funeral backlogs, adding to the misery caused by necessary restrictions to funeral services.

With that in mind, we would be extremely grateful if you could communicate the need for care homes to observe the duty of disclosure to funeral directors in relation to the likely cause of death, that may be the deceased has been tested for COVID-19 and a positive result follows, or testing has occurred and results are awaited.

This will not only reduce the stress felt by funeral directors of handling Covid-19 victims but will also ensure collections are not held up or even worse refused.

Similarly, if there are any challenges you face which could be eased by adjustments to funeral director practices at this time, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Thank you in advance for sharing this letter and we look forward to acknowledgement of receipt.

We would be very happy to discuss the above further if you feel that would be of help please contact Terry Tennens email: info@saif.org.uk or telephone 0345 230 6777.

Yours gratefully,

Deceased Management Advisory Group:

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Brendan Day	- FBCA	Terry Tennens	- SAIF
Alun Tucker	- FFMA	Miriam Deacon	- The Cremation Society
Julie Dunk	- ICCM		

