

10-18-23

Assistant Commissioner Backstrom

Members of the MN Department of Health

Thank you for being willing to meet with us prior to yearend.

The shortage of available Funeral Directors to be available to go out on removals is very acute and has been prior to Covid. Since Covid many long-time directors with a wealth of experience and knowledge have left the business leaving a net loss with the replacement of newer directors. This is in the midst of continuing upward death care needs of Funeral Homes upon their own staff.

We are simply asking for help at this point. The last 3 years saw promises of a fix get pushed to the side of other priorities. The Department of Health recommendation last February of 2023 offered hope of safe have fix until the Legislature can address the issue. Unfortunately, that saw an unexpected withdrawal from recommendations that were implemented.

Please help this industry make it through another winter of elevated Death Care Needs by offering a safe haven that providers can utilize to bridge the industry to a Legislative Solution.

We can provide letters of support from customers and industry leaders to support such a bridge.

Thank you very much for your time and efforts thus far.

Sincerely

Todd P Anderson

Johnson Williams Funeral Car Service