

Deceased Management Advisory Group

Ashes Retention Policy

In accordance with government restrictions members of the public are only permitted to leave their homes for a limited number of specific reasons. Whilst this includes specified individuals attending funerals, it does not provide for the collection of ashes or their final disposal.

Therefore, unless specific arrangements can be made to release the ashes in a manner which complies with the government's requirements on social distancing, it is recommended that ashes should be retained at the crematorium until the current emergency is over.

At which time the applicant may wish to hold memorial services at which all family members will be able to participate.

In view of the policy it is recommended that:

- Funeral directors advise families of the reasons for this policy. However, if they believe that the collection of the ashes will in certain circumstances have an exceptional benefit on the grieving process for the bereaved, such as where, following the death of a parent a child or young person wants them close to them, then every effort should be made for their safe collection and delivery in accordance with current distancing requirements.
- The funeral director advising the family, or completing Form 1 on their behalf, indicate on the form that the ashes are to be retained at the crematorium.
- Crematoria ensure they have sufficient additional storage containers to cope with the anticipated surge in cremations.
- Crematoria ensure they have sufficient identification labels to be able to clearly identify the ashes stored.
- Crematoria identify suitable additional storage space for the ashes, in a specific secure location which is unlikely to be subject to flooding, fire or damage.
- Crematoria ensure that they have a robust audit system to track the location of stored ashes.

The Cremation Authority may wish to consider waiving any normal storage fee.

24th April 2020



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities



The Cremation Society