

# *American Society of Embalmers*

## **Best Practice Embalming Tenets©**

- # Treat all deceased human remains with thoughtful care, maintain dignity and show respect at all times
- # Be knowledgeable of and in compliance with, all regulatory authorities, (federal, state and local) that govern the preparation and disposition of a deceased human remains
- # Prioritize the use of excellent communications among all funeral professionals involved with the decedent and family
  - Authorizations for embalming and restorative art procedures must be shared with the embalmer, preferably in writing
  - Confirm the identity of the deceased prior to the commencement of any procedures
  - The Preparation Room should be kept private and all local, state, and federal laws should be observed as to its use
  - Share information regarding the care of the deceased between director and embalmer
    - Obtain information about the overall condition of the remains
    - Obtain information about cause or nature of death
    - Obtain the time of services to optimize best presentation
      - Ensure that adequate time is given to the embalming process
  - Address and remedy problem embalming and shipping situations immediately
- # All documents, photographs and personal information about the deceased must be kept in strict confidence and under secure storage
  - Only those persons designated and authorized by the funeral establishment or family may be allowed attendance during the preparation of a remains
  - Photographs of deceased remains must never be placed on social media sites or shown in public places to non-funeral professionals outside the educational setting
- # Respect and comply, without comment, with the wishes of the family or the deceased requesting organ/tissue donor, hospital or forensic autopsy, or full body donation to science
- # Professional conduct will ensure that embalmers will not knowingly allow non-licensed embalmers (exception students or apprentices, under supervision) to practice embalming and that they will not participate in derogatory public comments about other embalmers
- # Pursue ongoing and continuing education opportunities for the embalmer
- # Document all remains entering the funeral facility on a Preparation Care Form
  - Include remains for: identification only, storage, embalming, shipped-in or shipped-out
- # Practice thorough and complete preservation of the entire remains
  - Use all available embalming methods necessary: arterial, hypodermic, surface
- # Be knowledgeable of multiple methods of treating all types of embalming cases, regardless of their condition.
  - Practice custodial care; monitor remains from arrival in the funeral establishment until final disposition and make corrections as needed
  - Be willing to ask for assistance when needed
- # Protect yourself from any potential hazard, infectious, chemical and physical
- # The establishment ownership and the embalming practitioner agree to have available all the necessary supplies, chemicals, dry goods and equipment to prepare every type of embalming case
- # The preparation room and adjoining facilities will be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition

The Executive Director and Board of Directors of the American Society of Embalmers compiled these Best Practice Embalming Tenets to elevate the formal practice of embalming throughout the profession. This document is a work in progress. As the embalming environment changes, this document will be updated to reflect the current practices.