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# The Funeral Directors Association of Kentucky, Inc.

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March 23, 2020

Andy Beshear, Governor  
700 Capital Avenue, Suite 100  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

By fax - (502) 564-2517

**Re: Request to identify death care workers as essential critical infrastructure workers in emergency declarations**

Dear Governor Beshear,

Thank you for your steady and aggressive leadership during this COVID 19 pandemic; it is greatly appreciated. We also appreciate your recognition of the funeral profession as an essential service in this very trying time.

The Funeral Directors Association of Kentucky has been working closely with the National Funeral Directors Association to educate funeral professionals about their critical role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We appreciate the critical steps Kentucky has taken at your directive to limit the spread of COVID-19; to mitigate the impact of illness, suffering and death; and to sustain critical infrastructure and key resources. Our members serve on the frontlines dealing with deaths from all causes and the additional COVID-19 deaths might overload their capabilities; especially if their small staffs have to address COVID-19 on a personal level.

You understand that death care plays a vital part of the public health of our state. During a pandemic, such as COVID-19, or any mass-fatality disaster, death care represents a critical part of the public/private partnership that will help us heal and recover.

Death care professionals have an extremely high-risk for exposure to sources of COVID-19 as they care for and prepare the deceased for burial or cremation. As you know, on March 19, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency issued guidance that classified mortuary workers as "critical infrastructure workers." This underscores the vital role funeral directors and others who work in death care (such as the "Workers who coordinate with other organizations to ensure the proper recovery, handling, identification, transportation, tracking, storage, and disposal of human remains and personal effects" noted in the DHS guidance) play in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - W. Sidney Fogle**

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE - P.O. Box 4779, 108 St. James Court, Frankfort, Kentucky 40604-4779  
(502) 223-0622 (800) 866-3211 FAX (502) 223-0628 E-Mail: info@FDAofKY.com