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## **CEMETERY AND FUNERAL SERVICES**

BC FUNERAL DIRECTOR & EMBALMER  
ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

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### **FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS – BRITISH COLUMBIA - NOC 6272**

It is mandatory to be licensed by Consumer Protection BC, the provincial licensing and regulatory body, and be employed by a licensed funeral provider to practice and use the title of "Licensed Funeral Director" or "Licensed Embalmer" in the Province of British Columbia.

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### **BASIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND/OR EMBALMER IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

#### **Educational Requirements**

Applicants must be a graduate of the approved two-year apprenticeship program in funeral education as offered by the British Columbia Funeral Association (a registered Private Post-Secondary Training Institution). The program includes practical experience in both funeral directing and embalming (<https://bcfunerals.com/>).

#### **Examination Requirements**

The acceptable standard for passing any examination or final grade in any subject is seventy (70) percent. The only exception to the application of this standard is on the Embalming and Funeral Service Practicum courses that are graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Each student must complete a practical embalming operation. There is no provincial or national examination.

#### **Supervised fieldwork/practical training**

All applicants must complete thirty-six hundred (3600) hours of supervised fieldwork/practical training and must complete fifty (50) embalming operations and be involved directly with the process of making fifty (50) funeral arrangements during the two-year apprenticeship program. Training must be undertaken in British Columbia.

#### **Language requirements**

Applicants must be proficient in English

#### **Canadian citizenship**

Canadian citizenship is not required to be licensed. Non-citizens are not required to have an approved immigration visa.

#### **Residence requirements**

Applicants must reside in British Columbia to be licensed.

#### **Fees**

Becoming a member of a regulated occupation usually requires the payment of fees for some activities. This list is not necessarily complete, and the activities listed are subject to change at any time. Applicants should check with the regulatory organization for an up-to-date list of activities and their cost.

The following activities require payment of a fee:

- issuance of initial license
- annual dues to maintain license
- membership in association
- challenge of Trade Qualification Examination

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**QUALIFICATION RECOGNITION PRACTICES: for applicants qualified as a funeral director or embalmer in another province or territory**

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**Documentation**

Persons qualified as a Funeral Director or Embalmer elsewhere in Canada who want to be licensed by the Director, Consumer Protection BC should provide the following documentation:

- Trades Qualification Certification/Diploma or equivalent from other regulatory body, or proof of good standing with other regulatory body (the Director reserves the right to contact any other jurisdiction to verify documents submitted).
- three letters of reference
- proof of work experience

**Academic Qualifications Assessment**

Applicants are required to complete an application form detailing qualifications. The applicant may be required to satisfy the Director as to academic competency and understanding of the applicable provincial legislation. The Director or designate may conduct this assessment. This applies equally to funeral directors and embalmers.

Applicants must submit evidence that they have successfully completed the legislation module and associated legislation exam of the BC funeral service education program administered by the British Columbia Funeral Association. They may be contacted at PO Box 363 Station Main Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4, by e-mail at [info@bcfunerals.com](mailto:info@bcfunerals.com) or by phone at 1-800-665-3899;

**Additional supervised fieldwork/practical training**

Applicants qualified and licensed elsewhere in Canada are not required to complete additional academic courses or a supplementary program of study if they have graduated from a recognized funeral service program.

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**QUALIFICATION RECOGNITION PRACTICES: for applicants qualified as a funeral director or embalmer in another country**

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**Documentation**

Persons qualified as a Funeral Director or Embalmer in another country who want to be licensed by the Director, Consumer Protection BC should provide the following documentation:

- Trades Qualification Certification/Diploma or equivalent from other regulatory body, or proof of good standing with other regulatory body (the Director reserves the right to contact any other jurisdiction to verify documents submitted).
- three letters of reference
- course descriptions in field of study
- proof of work experience
- proof of continuing professional development

Applicants must provide official translations for all documents in a foreign language. Certified copies are acceptable.

**Academic qualification assessment**

Applicants are required to complete an application form detailing qualifications. The applicant may be required to satisfy the Director as to academic competency and understanding of the applicable provincial legislation.

Applicants must submit evidence that they have successfully completed the legislation module and associated legislation exam of the BC funeral service education program administered by the British Columbia Funeral Association (BCFA). They may be contacted at PO Box 363 Station Main Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4 or by e-mail at [info@bcfunerals.com](mailto:info@bcfunerals.com) or by phone at 1-800-665-3899;

### **Additional supervised fieldwork/practical training**

Additional fieldwork/practical training may be required for applicants qualified in another country.

Applicants qualified in another country may be required to satisfactorily complete additional academic courses or a supplementary program of study, depending on regulations and statues in the country where they studied.

### **Temporary Licensing**

Temporary and provisional licenses are not available.

### **Residency upon Request for Assessment**

Applicants may reside anywhere in Canada or in another country when they request to have their qualifications recognized. Non-citizens are not required to have an approved immigration visa.

### **National/Provincial Association Role**

Membership with the national or provincial association is not required before applying to the Business Practices & Consumer Protection Authority for licensing.

### **Preparation Materials**

The BC Funeral Association is able to provide information regarding the requirements to help prepare applicants for licensing.

### **Contact Information**

#### **Education:**

British Columbia Funeral Association  
PO Box 363 Station Main  
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4

Tel: (250) 592-3213  
Toll free in Canada only: 1 800 665-3899  
E-mail: [info@bcfunerals.com](mailto:info@bcfunerals.com)

#### **Licensing:**

Consumer Protection BC  
PO Box 9244  
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9J2

Telephone: 604-320-1664  
Facsimile: 250 920-7181  
Toll free: 1 888 777-4393

This information was last updated February 20,2024. It is deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Information should be verified with the individual organization.