



C·A·R·E
Funeral Services

Planning Kit

When is Embalming Necessary?

Embalming is a surgical technique used to disinfect, preserve, and restore the human body to an acceptable physical appearance. The foremost reason for embalming is the protection of public health, which is why it was initiated during the Civil War in the USA when bodies of slain soldiers had to be sent by train long distances. There was no refrigeration in those times on railcars, and quite simply the bodies began to immediately decompose, therefore offering an ideal environment for microbial growth.

In addition, where open casket funerals are desired, embalming restores the body to a more acceptable physical appearance. Restoration is not intended to make the individual appear as they did before death, but rather to enhance the appearance for viewing. Some experts on bereavement believe that viewing the deceased confirms the reality of death, and therefore assists in the survivors recovering from their loss. Under provincial regulations, embalming can only be performed if by written acknowledgement of the funeral services contract.

The funeral industry gets requests to transport bodies a very long distance – often between continents. The airline industry encounters frequent delays, and for that reason any casket being shipped by air must have an embalmed body. The reality today is that this technique is less often performed, particularly in the case of cremation. One can cremate an embalmed body, but it is rarely required. There have been cases reported where someone was ‘pressured’ to embalm a loved one, and that should be reported immediately. At CARE, we do not subscribe to that way of thinking.

**2676 Wilfert Road, Victoria, BC V9B 5Z3
250-391-9696 (24 hrs)**

**&
9787 4th Street, Sidney, BC V8L 2Y9
250-655-9669 (24 hrs)**

www.CareFuneral.com