

## CARE OF THE DECEASED

**When arranging a funeral there may be questions that you have about how we look after your loved one, and things you may need or want to know about embalming. We hope that this short document helps to answer some of those questions for you.**

Our commitment is to provide the highest standards of care, and we understand that entrusting us to look after your loved one is an important decision. We seek to keep you involved every step of the way, so that you are very clear as to what is happening, and what to expect if circumstances change.

When your loved one arrives in our care, we continuously monitor and maintain their condition to the best of our ability. Our mortuary teams are experienced members of staff, and are overseen by our trained embalmers, who have undertaken a rigorous course of training and examination by the British Institute of Embalmers. The team is available to answer any of your questions, and will also make every effort to accommodate any particular wishes that you may have.

When someone has died, they may not look how they did in life, and this is more evident depending on some causes of death. If you have a recent photo of your loved one, please let us know, as this may help with ensuring that they are presented in a way that will make your last visits with them as memorable as they can be. If you provide any of their own cosmetics, we will use them if possible, although sometimes the same effect cannot be achieved as when they were alive.

Occasionally, again, depending on the cause of death, it is sometimes not possible to see your loved one in an open coffin, and our experienced team will let you know if they feel it is unwise. That does not mean that you can't visit them in the chapel of rest, but we may advise you to have the coffin closed.

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### Embalming

Embalming is a time honoured procedure where the natural fluids of the body are replaced with a chemical solution, via the arterial system, carried out by our qualified staff. It can restore the appearance of the deceased to a certain extent, and slows down the process of natural deterioration, so is recommended if the funeral isn't going to take place for some time, or if you are undecided about whether or not you want to visit them in our chapel of rest.

The products used don't impact on a burial or a cremation, however, if you are considering an eco friendly or woodland burial, embalming isn't permitted as it may contaminate the local environment.

If repatriation to another country for a funeral is taking place, it is a legal requirement that they are embalmed.

The religious implications of embalming can vary widely according to faith. Some religions, such as Islam and Judaism, discourage or prohibit embalming, while others, such as Christianity, generally accept it. Personal beliefs or religious traditions of the deceased may guide your decision.

**If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to speak to your funeral arranger.**

