

Commonwealth Funeral Service
5404 Glen Alden Dr. · Henrico, VA 23231
Phone: 804-824-6828 · Fax: 804-416-5054

CREMATION & DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION

This Authorization Form must be completed and signed prior to the cremation. Please read carefully and ask us any questions you may have. Cremation is an irreversible and final process. It is important that you understand the cremation process. We want you to fully understand the information provided in this Authorization Form and Attachment, so we will be pleased to answer any questions about the cremation process or other information on this form.

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE DECEDENT

Name of the Decedent: _____ Date of Death: _____ Time: _____
Place of Death: _____ Sex: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____

2. IDENTIFICATION OF AUTHORIZING AGENT

Name of Authorizing Agent: _____ Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____ Relationship: _____

Cremation is an irreversible process and, therefore, VFH requires positive identification of the deceased prior to the cremation process. The Authorizing Agent may perform the identification, or designate a representative to do so.

I (We) the Authorizing Agent:

agree to identify the human remains OR

designate _____ to identify the human remains.

I (We) _____ have viewed and positively identified the human remains

As _____ who died on the _____ day of _____, 20____.

Signature (person to I.D.) _____ Date _____

Signature of Funeral Director present at I.D. _____ License # _____

3. AUTHORITY OF AUTHORIZING AGENT

As Authorizing Agent, I represent that I have the right to authorize the cremation of the Decedent's remains and I am initialing one of the three following statements:

I certify that I do not have actual knowledge of any living person who has a superior right to act as the Authorizing Agent.

There is another living person(s) listed below who has a superior or equal right to act as the Authorizing Agent. That person(s) has provided me with written permission to serve as Authorizing Agent.

There is another living person(s) listed below who has a superior or equal right to act as Authorizing Agent. I have made all reasonable efforts to contract such person(s) but have been unable to do so. I have no reason to believe that such person(s) would object to the cremation of the Decedent's remains.

Name(s) of other person(s): _____

4. PACEMAKERS, PROSTHESES AND RADIOACTIVE IMPLANTS

Please initial one of the following statements:

The decedent's remains do not contain a pacemaker, prostheses, radioactive implant or any other device that could be harmful to the crematory. The remains are safe to cremate.

As authorizing agent, I instruct the Funeral Home to remove each device listed below and to dispose of them properly prior to cremation.

Description of Devices: _____

5. CREMATION PROCESS

By initialing as Authorizing Agent, I have read and understand the description of the cremation process and authorize the cremation, processing and pulverization of the remains of the Decedent. I further authorize the Funeral Home to deliver the Decedent's remains to the Crematory for cremation.

6. FINAL DISPOSITION

After cremation and processing of the cremated remains has taken place, the cremains are to be picked up by or mailed to by Priority Mail Express:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

7. AUTHORIZATION

I (we) certify that I (we) am (are) the Next of Kin(s) {Code of Virginia 54.1-2800} of the above name deceased. I (we) authorize and request that cremation, processing and disposition of the deceased and container, subject to federal, state and local laws and regulation of the crematory. I (we) understand that cremation is irreversible and final and I (we) assume full responsibility for this authorization.

I (we) agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the crematory and funeral establishment, their officers, agents and employees, of and from any and all claims, demands, causes or causes of action, and suits of every kind, nature and description in law or equity including any legal fees, costs and expenses of litigation, arising as a result of, based upon, or connected with this authorization, including the failure to properly identify the decedent, the processing, shipping and final disposition of the decedent's cremains, the failure to take possession of or make proper arrangements for the final disposition of the cremains, any damage due to harmful or combustible implants, claims brought by many other person(s) claiming the right to control the disposition of the decedent or cremains, or any other action performed by the crematory or funeral establishment, their officers, agents, or employees, pursuant to this authorization, excepting only acts of willful negligence.

Name (print): _____ Relationship: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (print): _____ Relationship: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Funeral Establishment: _____ Phone: _____

Signature of Funeral Director as witness: _____

1. CODE OF VIRGINIA - IDENTIFICATION OF THE DECEDENT AND AUTHORIZING AGENT § 54.1-2818.1. *Prerequisites for cremation.* No dead human body shall be cremated without permission of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner as required by § 32.1-309.3 and visual identification of the deceased by the next-of-kin or his representative, who may be any person designated to make arrangements for the disposition of the decedent's remains pursuant to § 54.1-2825, an agent named in an advance directive pursuant to § 54.1-2984, or any guardian appointed pursuant to Chapter 20 (§ 64.2-2000 et seq.) of Title 64.2 who may exercise the powers conferred in the order of appointment or by § 64.2-2019, or, in cases in which the next of kin or his representative fails or refuses to provide visual identification of the deceased, by any other person 18 years of age or older who is able to provide positive identification of the deceased. If no such next of kin or his representative or other person 18 years of age or older is available or willing to make visual identification of the deceased, such identification shall be made by a member of the primary law-enforcement agency of the city or county in which the person or institution having initial custody of the body is located, pursuant to court order.

Pursuant to § 54.1-2800 the "Next of Kin" means any of the following persons, regardless of the relationship to the decedent; any person designated to make arrangements for the disposition of the decedent's remains upon his death pursuant to § 54.1-2825, the legal spouse, child 18 years of age or older, parent of a decedent 18 years or older, custodial parent or noncustodial parent of a decedent younger than 18 years of age, siblings over eighteen years of age, guardian of minor child, guardian of minor siblings, maternal grandparents, maternal siblings over eighteen years of age and paternal siblings over eighteen years of age, or any other relative in the descending order of blood relationship.

In accordance with the provisions of § 54.1-2825(A) any person may designate another individual to make arrangements and be otherwise responsible for funeral and the disposition of the designator's remains. The designee shall have priority over all persons otherwise entitled to make such arrangements, provided that a copy of the signed and notarized writing is presented to the funeral service establishment and to the cemetery, if any, no later than 48 hours after the funeral service establishment has received the remains of the designator. In accordance with the provisions of § 54.1-2825 B, a person designated in a U.S. Department of Defense Record of Emergency Data (DD Form 93) or any successor form to make arrangements for funeral and disposition of the designator's remains shall be responsible for making such arrangements when the designator dies while serving in any branch of the U. S. Armed Forces as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 1481.

In accordance with the provisions of § 32.1-309.1 and § 54.1-2807.02, in the absence of a next of kin, a designee, an agent named in an advance directive pursuant to § 54.1-2984, or any guardian appointed pursuant to Chapter 20 (§ 64.2-2000 et seq.) of Title 64.2 who may exercise the powers conferred in the order of appointment or by § 64.2-2019, or on the failure or refusal of the next of kin, designee, agent, or guardian to accept responsibility for the disposition of the decedent, then any other person 18 years of age or older who is able to provide positive identification of the deceased and is willing to pay for the costs associated with the disposition of the decedent's remains shall be authorized to make arrangements for such disposition of the decedent's remains. If a funeral service establishment or funeral service licensee makes arrangements with a person other than a next of kin, designated person, agent, or guardian in accordance with this section, then the funeral service licensee or funeral service establishment shall be immune from civil liability unless such act, decision, or omission resulted from bad faith or malicious intent.

2. PACEMAKERS, IMPLANTS, AND PROSTHESIS Pacemakers, radioactive, silicon or other implants, mechanical devices or other prostheses may create a hazardous condition when subjected to heat in the cremation chamber and therefore must be removed *prior to cremation* pursuant to 18VAC65-20-436. B1. Radioactive implants must be removed by qualified medical professionals in a facility holding proper nuclear medicine credentials OR the cremation will be delayed until a qualified medical professional advises, in writing, that cremating the remains with the implants in place can be done safely. Radioactive material used in some diagnostic procedures may also cause a delay in cremation. In addition, pursuant to crematory requirements, any non-combustible prosthetics and surgical steel materials such as artificial knee or hip joints, screws, plates, rods, wires that are not otherwise hazardous, must be separated from the cremated remains *prior to mechanical pulverization* as described under #4 below. As Authorizing Agent, I have listed, to the best of my knowledge, in section #2 on the front side of this document all devices or implants (including mechanical, prosthetic, or surgical steel materials), which may have been implanted in or attached to the Decedent.

3. WITNESSES Witnessing a cremation can be an emotional experience. Witnesses are assuming the risks involved and fully release the Funeral Home and Crematory from any liability. To the extent permitted by the Crematory, if you desire witnesses, you must initial the corresponding section under #3 on the front side of this document and list the names of the persons authorized to be present at the cremation facility prior to and during the cremation of the Decedent's remains and during the removal of the cremated remains from the cremation chamber.

4. CREMATION PROCESS Cremation is carried out by placing the Decedent's remains in the casket or alternative container, which is then placed into a cremation chamber or retort where they are subjected to intense heat and flame. All cremations are performed individually. During the cremation process, it may be necessary to open the cremation chamber and reposition the remains of the Decedent in order to facilitate a complete and thorough cremation. Through the use of suitable fuel, the incineration of the container and its contents is accomplished and all substances are consumed or driven off, except bone fragments (calcium compounds) and metal (including dental gold and silver and other non-human materials) as the temperature is not sufficient to consume them.

Many caskets that are comprised of combustible materials also contain some exterior parts, e.g., decorative handles or rails, that are not combustible and that may cause damage to the cremation equipment. The Crematory, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to remove these noncombustible materials prior to cremation and to discard them similar materials from other cremations and other refuse in a non-recoverable manner.

Due to the cremation process, any personal possessions or valuable materials, such as dental gold or jewelry (as well as any body prostheses or dental bridgework) that are left with the remains and not removed from the casket or container prior to cremation may be destroyed or if not destroyed, will be disposed of by the Crematory. The Authorizing Agent understands that arrangements must be made with the Funeral Home to remove any such possessions or valuables prior to the time that the remains of the Decedent are transported to the Crematory.

Following a cooling period, the cremated remains, which will normally weigh several pounds in the case of an average size adult and just a few ounces in the case of stillborn or infant children, are then swept or raked from the cremation chamber. Although the Crematory will take reasonable efforts to remove all of the cremated remains from the cremation chamber, it is impossible to remove all of them, as some dust and other residue from the process will be left behind. In addition, while every effort will be made to avoid commingling, inadvertent and incidental commingling of minute particles of cremated remains from the residues of previous cremations is a possibility, and the Authorizing Agent understands and accepts this fact.

After the cremated remains are removed from the cremation chamber, all non-combustible material (insofar as possible) such as dental bridgework, prosthetics, surgical steel materials and hinges, latches, and nails from the container will be separated and removed from the human bone fragments by visible or magnetic selection. Unless instructed otherwise, the crematory is authorized to dispose of these materials with similar materials from other cremations in a non-recoverable manner, so that only human bone fragments will remain.

When the cremated remains are removed from the cremation chamber, the skeletal remains often will contain recognizable bone fragments. Unless otherwise specified, after the bone fragments have been separated from the other material, they will be mechanically pulverized. The process of crushing or grinding may cause incidental commingling of the remains with the residue from the processing of previously cremated remains. These granulated particles of unidentifiable dimensions, which are virtually unrecognizable as human remains, will then be placed into a designated container.

5. CODE OF VIRGINIA AND FINAL DISPOSITION § 54.1-2808.1. *Disposition of cremains.* Except as otherwise provided in § 54.1-2808.2, a funeral director may dispose of the cremains of an individual by interment, entombment, inurnment, or by scattering of the cremains, if after 120 days from the date of cremation, the contracting agent has not claimed the cremains or instructed the funeral director as to final disposition. The funeral director shall keep a permanent record of all cremains which identifies the method and site of final disposition. The costs and all reasonable expenses incurred in disposing of the cremains shall be borne by the contracting agent. Upon the disposition of the cremains, the funeral director shall not be liable for the cremains or for the method of final disposition. Except as otherwise provided in § 54.1-2808.2, any funeral director in possession of unclaimed cremains prior to July 1, 1993, may dispose of such cremains in accordance with the provisions of this section. However, no funeral director shall, without written permission of the contracting agent, dispose of cremains in a manner or a location in which the cremains of the deceased are commingled, except in the scattering of cremains at sea, by air, or in an area used exclusively for such purpose, or place, temporarily, the cremains of persons in the same container or urn.

Following the cremation, the Crematory will return the cremains to the Funeral Home. The Contracting Agent directs the Funeral Home to undertake the actions set forth on the front side of this document to arrange the final disposition of the cremated remains of the Decedent. If the cremated remains are shipped at any time, the Contracting Agent directs that the Funeral Home utilize registered U.S. Mail with a return receipt or a shipping service that uses an internal system for tracing the location of the cremated remains during shipment and requires a signed receipt of the person taking delivery of the cremated remains.

The Contracting Agent understands that if no arrangements for the final disposition, release or shipment of the cremated remains are made in this Authorization, the Funeral Home shall hold the cremated remains for no more than 135 days after the cremation. If the cremated remains are not retrieved by the person designated on the front side of this document to receive them or by the Contracting Agent within 135 days after the cremation, the Funeral Home/Crematory may dispose of the cremated remains according to § 54.1-2808.1 of the Code of Virginia. For the purposes of this section, "contracting agent" means any person, organization, association, institution, or group of persons who contracts with a funeral director or funeral establishment for funeral services.