

Michigan Mortuary Science Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. A candidate must pass what type of examination to obtain a mortuary science license?**
 - A. An approved examination**
 - B. A state certification examination**
 - C. An industry practice examination**
 - D. A written and practical test**
- 2. What is the implication of charging an excessive commission in funeral services?**
 - A. It is permissible under most circumstances**
 - B. It could lead to legal action**
 - C. It is standard practice**
 - D. It is limited to 5%**
- 3. No action may be taken regarding unclaimed cremated remains until at least _____ after the cremation.**
 - A. 3 months**
 - B. 6 months**
 - C. 1 year**
 - D. 2 years**
- 4. A licensee must wait _____ after mailing a notice of disposition of unclaimed cremated remains.**
 - A. 15 days**
 - B. 30 days**
 - C. 45 days**
 - D. 60 days**
- 5. When do mortuary science licenses expire?**
 - A. July 31, even years**
 - B. October 31, odd years**
 - C. January 15, every year**
 - D. December 31, even years**

- 6. Prepaid funds must be deposited into an escrow account within what timeframe after receipt?**
- A. 15 days**
 - B. 30 days**
 - C. 45 days**
 - D. 60 days**
- 7. What is the maximum fine for a first offense of disclosing a social security number?**
- A. \$1000**
 - B. \$2000**
 - C. \$3000**
 - D. \$4000**
- 8. True or False: Someone who holds a courtesy license can perform embalming.**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only under supervision**
 - D. Only in emergencies**
- 9. What are the five reasons a funeral home can be inspected?**
- A. First opened, change in ownership, construction, receive a complaint, and routinely**
 - B. Expired licenses, complaints, changes in management, state regulations, and routine inspections**
 - C. New management, state requests, construction changes, consumer complaints, and routine checks**
 - D. Ownership change, financial audits, construction updates, consumer feedback, and routine evaluations**
- 10. If a commission greater than 5% of the contract price is charged, what percentage of the remaining balance should be paid to the person entitled?**
- A. 50%**
 - B. 75%**
 - C. 100%**
 - D. 25%**

Answers

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1. A
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. B
7. B
8. B
9. A
10. C

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Explanations

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1. A candidate must pass what type of examination to obtain a mortuary science license?

- A. An approved examination**
- B. A state certification examination**
- C. An industry practice examination**
- D. A written and practical test**

To obtain a mortuary science license, a candidate must successfully complete an approved examination. This examination ensures that the candidate has acquired the necessary knowledge and skills required to practice mortuary science effectively and in compliance with the laws and regulations governing the profession in their state. An approved examination typically includes a comprehensive assessment of core topics such as embalming, restorative art, funeral service management, and ethics. While options like the certification examination and practical test may imply important aspects of the licensing process, the core requirement hinges on passing an examination that meets the standards set by the authorities regulating mortuary practice. This ensures that all practitioners possess the minimum competencies to provide safe and professional service to the community.

2. What is the implication of charging an excessive commission in funeral services?

- A. It is permissible under most circumstances**
- B. It could lead to legal action**
- C. It is standard practice**
- D. It is limited to 5%**

Charging an excessive commission in funeral services can lead to legal action because it violates ethical standards and consumer protection laws that govern the funeral industry. Funeral service providers are expected to charge reasonable and transparent fees for their services. When consumers perceive that they are being charged excessively, or if services are bundled in a way that obscures true costs, it can result in complaints and disputes. This not only undermines the trust and credibility of the funeral service provider but can also result in investigations by regulatory bodies, legal consequences, or claims of unfair trade practices. Thus, maintaining fair and just pricing is crucial in the funeral profession to uphold its integrity and comply with legal standards.

3. No action may be taken regarding unclaimed cremated remains until at least _____ after the cremation.

- A. 3 months**
- B. 6 months**
- C. 1 year**
- D. 2 years**

The correct answer is that no action may be taken regarding unclaimed cremated remains until at least 6 months after the cremation. This period is established to provide ample time for family members or legally entitled individuals to claim the remains, as they may require time to process their loss, make arrangements, or find financial resources. By waiting for this duration, the mortuary is ensuring that it respects the grieving process and gives rightful claimants a fair opportunity to retrieve the remains. The laws and guidelines governing the handling of unclaimed cremated remains, including this 6-month waiting period, are in place to uphold ethical standards in mortuary science and to protect the rights of the deceased and their families. This practice emphasizes the importance of care and compassion in dealing with the sensitive matter of cremated remains.

4. A licensee must wait _____ after mailing a notice of disposition of unclaimed cremated remains.

- A. 15 days**
- B. 30 days**
- C. 45 days**
- D. 60 days**

In Michigan, the law is structured to ensure that the process of dealing with unclaimed cremated remains is conducted thoughtfully and legally. A licensee is required to wait a specific period after mailing a notice of disposition to give the rightful parties adequate opportunity to respond and claim the remains. The correct answer, which indicates a waiting period of 30 days, aligns with the statutory requirements outlined in state regulations. This time frame is designed to balance the interests of the funeral service provider with those of the families and individuals who may wish to claim the remains, providing a reasonable and fair interval for any claims to be made. Additionally, the choice of a 30-day period reflects a legal standard commonly used in various contexts, allowing ample time for notice and potential action by the involved parties.

5. When do mortuary science licenses expire?

- A. July 31, even years
- B. October 31, odd years**
- C. January 15, every year
- D. December 31, even years

Mortuary science licenses typically follow specific renewal timelines established by regulatory bodies to ensure that practitioners maintain their qualifications and adhere to industry standards. In this context, the correct choice reflects that mortuary science licenses expire on October 31 of odd-numbered years. This timeline allows for a structured renewal process every two years, aligning with many professional licenses in various fields. The decision to have the expiration occur in odd years may facilitate administrative tracking and ensure that renewals occur before the peak demand periods, which can be influenced by various factors, including seasonal fluctuations in death rates. Maintaining an up-to-date license ensures that morticians remain acquainted with current practices, regulations, and continuing education requirements that are crucial in the evolving landscape of mortuary science. In summary, understanding the specific renewal date helps professionals in the field of mortuary science to manage their licensing schedules effectively and ensure compliance with state regulations.

6. Prepaid funds must be deposited into an escrow account within what timeframe after receipt?

- A. 15 days
- B. 30 days**
- C. 45 days
- D. 60 days

Prepaid funds must be deposited into an escrow account within 30 days after receipt. This requirement is essential for the protection of consumers and to ensure that funds designated for funeral services are held securely and used appropriately. Escrow accounts serve as a safeguard, offering peace of mind to families who prepay for services, as it assures them that their funds will not be misused. The 30-day timeframe is set to encourage prompt action and accountability from service providers, who must comply with regulations intended to prevent any potential financial mismanagement. By adhering to this timeframe, funeral service providers clearly demonstrate their commitment to ethical practices and consumer protection in the mortuary science profession.

7. What is the maximum fine for a first offense of disclosing a social security number?

- A. \$1000**
- B. \$2000**
- C. \$3000**
- D. \$4000**

The maximum fine for a first offense of disclosing a social security number is indeed \$2000. This specific amount is established to serve as a deterrent against the unauthorized sharing of sensitive personal information, reflecting the seriousness of privacy violations in the context of identity security. Disclosing social security numbers can lead to identity theft and other illegal activities, which is why regulations impose significant penalties. The structure of fines is often designed to escalate with repeat offenses and different circumstances surrounding the violation, emphasizing the importance of adhering to privacy regulations to protect individuals' personal information. Understanding these legal frameworks is crucial for practicing mortuary science, where handling sensitive information is part of the profession.

8. True or False: Someone who holds a courtesy license can perform embalming.

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Only under supervision**
- D. Only in emergencies**

In the context of mortuary science, a courtesy license typically allows a licensed funeral director or embalmer from one jurisdiction to temporarily practice in another jurisdiction without undergoing the full licensing process required by that state. However, the scope of practice under a courtesy license can be limited and may not extend to performing embalming services. States often have specific regulations regarding what services can be performed under a courtesy license, and in many cases, individuals are required to hold a full, active license in that jurisdiction to engage in embalming. This restriction is in place to ensure compliance with local laws and standards of practice, which can vary significantly from one state to another. Therefore, the assertion that someone with a courtesy license can perform embalming is false, as the legal framework generally requires full licensure for that specific activity. The other options suggest conditions that often do not apply to courtesy licenses regarding embalming services.

9. What are the five reasons a funeral home can be inspected?

- A. First opened, change in ownership, construction, receive a complaint, and routinely**
- B. Expired licenses, complaints, changes in management, state regulations, and routine inspections**
- C. New management, state requests, construction changes, consumer complaints, and routine checks**
- D. Ownership change, financial audits, construction updates, consumer feedback, and routine evaluations**

The selection of the first choice as the correct answer is based on the significance of the circumstances that prompt inspections of funeral homes. When a funeral home first opens, it undergoes an inspection to ensure that it meets all regulatory standards and can operate legally. Changes in ownership also necessitate an inspection to verify that the new management is compliant with state laws and regulations. Construction updates may prompt an inspection to ensure that any modifications meet safety and health standards. Receiving a complaint from a member of the public is a critical reason for an inspection, as it allows regulatory bodies to address potential violations or issues that need to be investigated. Lastly, routine inspections are standard practice to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable laws and regulations within the funeral industry. The other options have elements related to inspections but may incorporate factors that are less directly tied to the formal processes that trigger inspections. For example, while expired licenses can be an indicator of potential issues, they do not inherently trigger an inspection in the same manner as the other specified events. Similarly, changes in management do not always necessitate an inspection unless they coincide with ownership changes or other significant factors. Thus, the five specific reasons reflected in the first choice capture the comprehensive rationale behind why inspections occur within the funeral home industry.

10. If a commission greater than 5% of the contract price is charged, what percentage of the remaining balance should be paid to the person entitled?

- A. 50%**
- B. 75%**
- C. 100%**
- D. 25%**

In the context of commissions and contract pricing, when a commission greater than 5% is charged, the standard practice is that the person entitled receives 100% of the remaining balance. This practice is generally established to ensure fairness in compensation, especially in situations where higher commissions might otherwise reduce the amount payable to the entitled party. This principle reflects a common understanding in contractual agreements where the intent is to guarantee that individuals or entities who are owed compensation are not adversely affected merely by higher upfront costs or commissions. Thus, if a higher commission is taken from the total contract price, the remaining balance should rightfully be paid in full to the party entitled to those funds. This approach helps maintain trust and transparency in financial transactions. Other options suggest varying percentages that do not align with these contractual norms, indicating a misunderstanding of standard compensation practices in such scenarios.