

# North Carolina Funeral Law Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. What is the maximum time allowed for a physician or medical officer to certify a decedent's death?**
  - A. 1 day**
  - B. 2 days**
  - C. 3 days**
  - D. 5 days**
- 2. When speaking of computations for continuing education (CE) credit, how many hours do teachers or presenters earn for an initial presentation?**
  - A. Two hours**
  - B. Three hours**
  - C. Four hours**
  - D. One hour**
- 3. Sponsors for continuing education must provide a facility conducive to learning with sufficient space for what purpose?**
  - A. Networking**
  - B. Note taking**
  - C. Rest breaks**
  - D. Exhibits**
- 4. Within what time frame must a funeral director file a notification of death?**
  - A. 12 hours**
  - B. 24 hours**
  - C. 48 hours**
  - D. 72 hours**
- 5. How often do burial associations have to place a portion of their assessments into a reserve account?**
  - A. Only once**
  - B. Annually**
  - C. Every assessment cycle**
  - D. Monthly**

- 6. How many members are on the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service?**
- A. Seven**
  - B. Nine**
  - C. Eleven**
  - D. Thirteen**
- 7. Who issues permits for disinterment-reinterment?**
- A. State Board of Funeral Service**
  - B. Local registrar**
  - C. County commissioner**
  - D. Health department**
- 8. Which item is not required on an application form for new funeral establishments?**
- A. All full-time and part-time employees of the funeral home**
  - B. The financial stability of the establishment**
  - C. The premises description**
  - D. The intended services offered**
- 9. What is the term used for the process that reduces cremated human remains to unidentifiable dimensions?**
- A. Destruction**
  - B. Granulation**
  - C. Ashing**
  - D. Pulverization**
- 10. A crematory authority must select which of the following from its members?**
- A. A secretary only**
  - B. A vice-chairman and secretary**
  - C. A chairman, vice-chairman, and a secretary**
  - D. A treasurer and chairman**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is the maximum time allowed for a physician or medical officer to certify a decedent's death?**

- A. 1 day
- B. 2 days
- C. 3 days**
- D. 5 days

In North Carolina, the law stipulates that a physician or medical officer must certify a decedent's death within a specific timeframe to ensure timely processing of the death certificate. The correct answer of three days reflects the legal requirement, which aims to maintain efficiency in public health tracking and vital statistics documentation. By establishing a maximum timeframe for death certification, the law also ensures that necessary information regarding the cause of death is recorded promptly, which is crucial not only for state records but also for legal and insurance purposes. The other timeframes provided do not meet the requirements outlined by North Carolina law. Shorter periods may not allow physicians sufficient time to gather all pertinent information needed for accurate certification. Therefore, the three-day period strikes a balance between ensuring timely documentation and allowing healthcare professionals the necessary time to complete a thorough examination and ascertain the cause of death.

**2. When speaking of computations for continuing education (CE) credit, how many hours do teachers or presenters earn for an initial presentation?**

- A. Two hours
- B. Three hours**
- C. Four hours
- D. One hour

Teachers or presenters earn three hours of continuing education credit for an initial presentation. This is reflective of the acknowledgment given to professionals who share their expertise and contribute to the education of others in the field. The three-hour framework is designed to encourage participation and ensure that educators are rewarded fairly for the time and effort they invest in preparing and delivering their presentations. This amount also aligns with standard practices in various continuing education programs, ensuring consistency and recognition of the work accomplished during the presentation.

**3. Sponsors for continuing education must provide a facility conducive to learning with sufficient space for what purpose?**

- A. Networking**
- B. Note taking**
- C. Rest breaks**
- D. Exhibits**

The correct answer is that sponsors for continuing education must provide a facility conducive to learning with sufficient space for note taking. This is essential because taking notes is a critical aspect of the learning process, allowing participants to capture important information, concepts, and skills that are being presented. A learning environment that accommodates this need enhances the educational experience, enabling attendees to focus on the material and engage more effectively with the content. Providing adequate space for note taking ensures that participants can comfortably write down their thoughts and insights without distraction or discomfort. If a venue is too cramped or lacks the necessary seating arrangements, it hinders attendees' ability to concentrate and absorb the material being taught. This focus on a supportive learning environment is crucial for the success of continuing education programs, as it directly impacts the effectiveness of the learning process.

**4. Within what time frame must a funeral director file a notification of death?**

- A. 12 hours**
- B. 24 hours**
- C. 48 hours**
- D. 72 hours**

In North Carolina, the law mandates that a funeral director is required to file a notification of death within 24 hours after the death has occurred. This requirement is crucial for ensuring that the death is officially recorded and that all necessary subsequent actions, such as obtaining the death certificate, can be initiated promptly. Timely filing helps facilitate communication between various parties, including healthcare providers, family members, and authorities, regarding the deceased individual. This 24-hour requirement reflects an emphasis on maintaining accurate and current records of deaths, which is essential for public health and legal reasons. Failure to comply with this timeline could result in legal implications for the funeral director and could complicate the grieving process for the deceased's family. Understanding this timeframe is critical for funeral directors to ensure they meet legal obligations and provide compassionate support to families during their time of loss.

**5. How often do burial associations have to place a portion of their assessments into a reserve account?**

**A. Only once**

**B. Annually**

**C. Every assessment cycle**

**D. Monthly**

Burial associations are required to maintain a reserve account to ensure that they can meet their financial obligations, especially for covering the costs associated with funeral services. The stipulation to place a portion of their assessments into a reserve account every assessment cycle is crucial for the financial health of the organization. By doing so, they ensure that they have sufficient funds available to meet claims as they arise, which promotes both stability and trust among members. This practice also helps safeguard against unforeseen financial shortfalls and ensures that the association can operate effectively over time, providing ongoing support to its members' families at the time of need. Setting aside funds every assessment cycle allows associations to adapt their reserves according to the number of assessments collected and any fluctuations in their expenses or liabilities. This continuous funding mechanism is a sound financial practice, reflecting the best interest of the members who rely on these funds for future services. Other options, such as once, annually, or monthly, do not align with the design of a solid financial strategy that supports the longevity and efficacy of burial associations.

**6. How many members are on the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service?**

**A. Seven**

**B. Nine**

**C. Eleven**

**D. Thirteen**

The North Carolina Board of Funeral Service consists of a total of nine members. This structure is designed to ensure a balanced representation of the various stakeholders involved in the funeral service profession within the state. The board includes members appointed from different backgrounds: licensed funeral service professionals, members of the public, and individuals with relevant experience in areas such as health care and consumer advocacy. This diversity helps the board make informed decisions that serve both the interests of the profession and the needs of consumers. Having a well-rounded membership is crucial for overseeing the regulation and licensing of funeral service practitioners and ensuring compliance with state laws.

## 7. Who issues permits for disinterment-reinterment?

- A. State Board of Funeral Service
- B. Local registrar**
- C. County commissioner
- D. Health department

The correct choice is that disinterment-reinterment permits are issued by the local registrar. In North Carolina, the local registrar is responsible for managing vital records, including those related to burials and disinterments. This includes the authority to issue permits necessary for disinterment, which is the legal process of removing a body from a grave, and reinterment, which involves placing the body in a new burial site. This process is crucial for maintaining accurate records and ensuring that disinterments are conducted in accordance with state laws and regulations. Local registrars have the knowledge of the required legalities and documentation necessary for such actions, making them the appropriate authority for issuing these permits. The other options listed do not typically have this specific jurisdiction. The State Board of Funeral Service oversees licensing and regulation of funeral service providers, while county commissioners typically deal with broader governmental and administrative matters. The health department may have roles in overall health and burial regulations but does not issue these permits directly.

## 8. Which item is not required on an application form for new funeral establishments?

- A. All full-time and part-time employees of the funeral home**
- B. The financial stability of the establishment
- C. The premises description
- D. The intended services offered

The application form for new funeral establishments typically does not require information about all full-time and part-time employees of the funeral home. This is because the primary focus of the application is on the establishment itself, including its operations, financial aspects, and the services it intends to offer. The licensing board is more concerned with the overall framework of the business, ensuring it meets legal and regulatory standards rather than the specific employment details within the establishment. The other elements, such as financial stability, a description of the premises, and the intended services offered, are integral to assessing the viability and compliance of the funeral establishment with state laws and regulations. Financial stability provides insight into whether the business can operate sustainably, a premises description details the physical location and its suitability for a funeral service, and intended services indicate the scope of offerings to the community. Together, these factors ensure that the funeral establishment can operate effectively and ethically, which is essential for maintaining public trust in funeral services.

**9. What is the term used for the process that reduces cremated human remains to unidentifiable dimensions?**

- A. Destruction**
- B. Granulation**
- C. Ashing**
- D. Pulverization**

The process that reduces cremated human remains to unidentifiable dimensions is known as pulverization. This term specifically refers to the mechanical process applied after cremation, where the remaining bone fragments undergo further treatment to ensure they are reduced to a fine consistency that is indistinguishable and suitable for placement in an urn or scattering. This is important for both legal and emotional reasons, as families may request this level of processing to ensure that they do not have identifiable remnants of their loved ones. Granulation and ashing, while related to the cremation process, do not accurately describe the final step of making the remains unidentifiable. Destruction is a broader term that refers to the act of causing something to cease to exist but does not specifically refer to the careful, methodical process of refining cremated remains to a fine powder. Therefore, pulverization is the precise term that captures the essence of this final procedure in handling cremated remains.

**10. A crematory authority must select which of the following from its members?**

- A. A secretary only**
- B. A vice-chairman and secretary**
- C. A chairman, vice-chairman, and a secretary**
- D. A treasurer and chairman**

The requirement for a crematory authority to select a chairman, vice-chairman, and a secretary aligns with standard governance practices for organizations involved in funeral services. This structure is crucial because it ensures that the authority has clear leadership roles, promoting effective management and operational oversight. The chairman is essential for presiding over meetings, leading discussions, and making significant decisions on behalf of the authority. The vice-chairman supports the chairman and steps in whenever the chairman is unavailable, maintaining continuity in leadership. The secretary plays a vital administrative role, managing records, correspondence, and meeting minutes, ensuring that all required documentation is accurate and accessible. Having this trio in place enhances accountability and communication within the authority, which is especially important in the sensitive context of cremation and funeral services. This governance structure ensures a balanced approach to decision-making and operational management, reflecting the seriousness and ethical standards expected in the funeral industry. Other options do not provide the full range of necessary leadership roles required to effectively govern a crematory authority. For instance, only having a secretary or just a vice-chairman would not suffice to fulfill the leadership demands and responsibilities inherent in such organizations.