

Nebraska Credentialing Review for the Profession of

CREMATORY OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

Application Date: May 27, 2026

Submitted to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

By the Nebraska Funeral Directors Association

1) Provide the following information for the applicant group:

This application is submitted by the Nebraska Funeral Directors Association on behalf of its member funeral directors, funeral homes, assistant funeral directors and mortuary students.

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The Nebraska Funeral Directors Association is the professional association representing funeral directing professionals (funeral directors, assistant funeral directors, and mortuary students in Nebraska. The organization consists of 288 active members as of May 1, 2026

2) Identify by title, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and website of any other groups, associations, or organizations in Nebraska whose membership consists of any of the following:

a. members of the same occupation or profession as that of the applicant group;

None the applicant group is aware of.

b. members of the occupation dealt with in the application; None the applicant group is aware of.

c. employers of the occupation dealt with in the application; None the applicant group is aware of.

d. practitioners of the occupations similar to or working closely with members of the occupation dealt with in the application; None the applicant group is aware of.

f. Citizens familiar with or utilizing the services of the occupation dealt with in the application (e.g., advocacy groups, patient rights groups, volunteer agencies for particular diseases or conditions, etc.); None the applicant group is aware of.

g. any other group that would have an interest in the application.

Wilbert Vault Company in Omaha, Nebraska

3) Provide the current scope of practice of this occupation as set forth in state statutes. If a change in this scope of practice is being requested, identify that change. This description of the desired scope of practice constitutes the proposal. The application comprises the documentation and other materials that are provided in support of the proposal.

There are no current laws pertaining to crematory operator scope of practice and nothing therefore in statutes.

4) Proposed Scope of Practice (If Not Credentialed in Nebraska)

Under the Nebraska Revised Statutes Chapter 71, the State of Nebraska regulates funeral establishments and licensed funeral directors. These statutes establish requirements related to the handling, preparation, and final disposition of human remains, including cremation.

However, Nebraska law does not establish a distinct credential, registration, or certification for individuals performing cremation. The duties associated with cremation are typically carried out by individuals operating under the authority or supervision of a licensed funeral director.

At present, there are no statutory or regulatory provisions that:

- Define the role of a crematory operator as a separate regulated certification
- Require minimum education, training, or competency standards for individuals performing cremation
- Establish uniform procedures for identification, chain of custody, operational practices or inspections
- Provide a mechanism for direct oversight or discipline of crematory operators as individuals

As a result, the individuals responsible for carrying out the cremation process itself may do so without standardized qualifications or direct regulatory accountability.

The applicant proposes the establishment of a Crematory Operator Certification to be administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Under the proposed framework, individuals performing cremation would be required to obtain certification demonstrating minimum competency. The proposed requirements include:

- Completion of an approved crematory operator training program
- Successful passage of a competency-based examination
- Compliance with standardized procedures related to identification, chain of custody, operation of cremation equipment, and inspections of crematories.
- These training courses would need to be administered every 5 years upon renewal of crematory licensure.

The proposed certification would establish a defined role for crematory operators/crematories and create a mechanism for oversight and accountability at the individual level.

The Nebraska Statutes Pertaining to funeral directing can be found here:

Funeral Directing Statute

Statute pertaining to cremation act can be found here:

Cremation Act Statute

Under the Nebraska Revised Statutes Chapter 71, the State of Nebraska regulates the practice of funeral directing, funeral establishments, and certain aspects of final disposition, including cremation authorization and procedural requirements.

These statutes establish requirements for licensed funeral directors, including oversight of arrangements, compliance with legal authorization, and general responsibility for the care and disposition of human remains.

However, the statutes do not:

- Recognize crematory operators as a distinct certification
- Require certification, licensure, or registration of individuals performing cremation
- Establish minimum training or competency standards for crematory operation
- Provide direct regulatory oversight of individuals performing the cremation process

As a result, the performance of cremation—the final and irreversible act of disposition—may be carried out by individuals who are not subject to any standardized qualifications or independent regulatory accountability.

5) Describe in detail the functions typically performed by practitioners of this occupation and identify what if any specific statutory limitations have been placed on these functions.

The current statutory framework places responsibility for cremation under licensed funeral directors and regulated establishments; however, it does not extend regulation to non-funeral establishments that operate crematories in the state. As cremation becomes more widely utilized, a greater number of families are entrusting crematories with the final disposition of their loved ones. This shift has resulted in:

- Increased volume of cremation services performed annually
- Greater reliance on crematory personnel to carry out final disposition
- Expanded operational demands on crematory facilities and staff

Despite this increased reliance, Nebraska law has not evolved to establish minimum competency standards for the individual's performing cremation. With non-funeral establishments there is no checks and balance for regulation, inspections, and no oversight from DHHS.

The proposed Crematory Operator Certification is intended to address this gap by establishing minimum competency standards at the point where risk is most directly present.

Specifically, the proposed certification would:

- Define crematory operators as a recognized role within the regulatory framework

- Require baseline training and competency verification
- Establish consistent procedural standards related to identification, chain of custody, and equipment operation
- Provide a mechanism for individual accountability and oversight

This approach complements, rather than replaces, the existing regulatory structure governing funeral directors and establishments.

6) Identify other occupations that perform some of the same functions or similar functions.

While funeral directors are the main group to perform some of the same functions, an individual or company could purchase and run a crematory without needing a licensed funeral director. Nebraska currently has one business that does not have a licensed funeral director on staff to over see cremation. Two other individuals have sold their machines or have become licensed within the past 2-3 years to limit individuals that could perform cremation.

7) What functions are unique to this occupation? What distinguishes this occupation from those identified in question 6?

While funeral directors are responsible for arrangements, legal compliance, and overall supervision, they may not be directly involved in the physical act of cremation or the operation of cremation equipment. In practice, these duties are frequently delegated to crematory operators.

The crematory operator's role is therefore distinguished by:

- Direct control over the cremation process itself
- Maintaining logs and crematory
- Responsibility for preventing irreversible errors, such as misidentification or commingling of remains
- Operation of specialized equipment requiring specific training and competency
- Execution of procedures that cannot be reversed or corrected once completed

Because these functions involve both technical skill and a high degree of responsibility at a critical point in the disposition process, they are not adequately addressed within the existing scope of other regulated occupations.

Accordingly, the crematory operator represents a distinct role with unique functions that warrant separate consideration for minimum competency standards through certification.

8) Identify other occupations whose members regularly supervise members of this occupation, as well as other occupations whose members are regularly supervised by this

occupation. Describe the nature of the supervision that occurs in each of these practice situations.

Within the current structure of funeral service operations in Nebraska, crematory operators function within a broader chain of custody and care that naturally places them both under supervision and, in certain circumstances, in a supervisory role themselves.

Crematory operators are most commonly supervised by licensed funeral directors. Under Nebraska law, funeral directors are responsible for the overall coordination of final disposition, including compliance with authorizations, permits, identification procedures, and communication with the decedent's family. The supervision exercised by funeral directors is primarily administrative and legal in nature. They ensure that proper documentation—such as cremation authorizations, vital statistics permits, and identification verification—is complete and accurate before cremation occurs.

Additionally, crematory operators often coordinate with removal staff or transport personnel at the point of transfer. While not always a formal supervisory relationship, the crematory operator may direct aspects of the transfer process, such as confirming identification, ensuring proper documentation accompanies the decedent, and verifying that intake procedures are correctly followed. This interaction reflects situational supervision tied to maintaining chain of custody and preventing errors in identification.

Overall, the supervision structure surrounding crematory operators reflects a hybrid model. Upward supervision is typically exercised by funeral directors or facility management. Downward or lateral supervision by crematory operators is more procedural and hands-on, focused on the technical execution of cremation and the safeguarding of identification and chain-of-custody protocols. This dynamic further underscores the gap in formalized training and credentialing, as crematory operators are often relied upon to independently carry out highly sensitive and irreversible procedures while operating with limited standardized oversight.

9) What actions, judgments, and procedures of this occupation can typically be carried out without supervision or orders? To what extent is this occupation, or portions of its practice, autonomous?

The occupation of a crematory operator involves a substantial degree of independent action and judgment in the performance of cremation once proper authorization has been obtained through a licensed funeral director in accordance with the **Nebraska Revised Statutes Chapter 71**.

Although cremation must be arranged and authorized within the existing statutory framework governing funeral directing, the operational aspects of the cremation process are typically carried out by the crematory operator without direct, continuous supervision.

In practice, crematory operators are responsible for executing the cremation process from initiation through completion. This includes verifying the identity of human remains using established identification procedures, confirming that all required documentation and authorizations are in order, and preparing the remains for cremation. The operator independently initiates and monitors the cremation process, making real-time adjustments to equipment operation as necessary to ensure proper functioning and adherence to safety protocols. The operator is also responsible for identifying and responding to any irregularities in equipment performance or procedural execution.

Upon completion of the cremation process, the operator independently removes the cremated remains, processes them in accordance with established practices, and prepares them for return to the funeral establishment or authorized recipient. In addition, the operator maintains internal records and documentation related to the cremation, ensuring that identification and chain-of-custody procedures are preserved throughout the process.

These responsibilities require the crematory operator to exercise independent judgment in verifying identification, determining appropriate operational conditions, and ensuring that all procedures are carried out in a manner consistent with professional standards. The decisions made by the operator occur at the point of execution and directly impact the integrity of the cremation process.

While crematory operators function within the broader oversight of a licensed funeral director, the cremation process itself is not typically subject to continuous, on-site supervision by a licensed professional. Once initiated, the process is carried out autonomously by the operator, who is solely responsible for its proper execution. Given that cremation is a final and irreversible act, the actions taken during this process cannot be undone or corrected after the fact.

The level of autonomy inherent in this occupation underscores the importance of ensuring that individuals performing these functions possess adequate training and competency. In the absence of standardized requirements, the independent nature of the role presents a potential risk to public health, safety, and welfare, as errors occurring during the cremation process may result in permanent and irreparable consequences.

10) Approximately how many people are performing the functions of this occupation in Nebraska, or are presenting themselves as members of this occupation? To what extent are these people credentialed in Nebraska?

Currently there are 33 active crematories in the state of Nebraska. Nebraska does not currently maintain a licensure or registry specific to crematory operators, which makes it impossible to identify an exact number of individuals formally recognized by the state as practicing in this occupation. However, a reasonable estimate can be drawn based on the number of funeral establishments and crematories operating within the state.

Despite the critical and highly sensitive nature of this work, there is currently no state-mandated credentialing, certification, or licensure requirement specific to crematory operators in Nebraska. Individuals performing these duties are not required to demonstrate competency through examination, complete standardized education, or maintain continuing education specific to cremation practices. In many cases, training is conducted internally by funeral homes or crematory operators and may vary significantly in scope and quality.

Some individuals may voluntarily obtain certification through national organizations such as the Cremation Association of North America, which offers a Certified Crematory Operator (CCO) program. However, participation in these programs is not required by Nebraska law, and there is no mechanism for the state to track or verify how many operators have completed such training.

11) Describe the general level of education and training possessed by practitioners of this occupation, including any supervised internship or fieldwork required for credentialing. Typically, how is this education and training acquired?

Licensed funeral professionals have at minimum an associates degree from an accredited mortuary science program, have passed a national board test, as well as a state specific test. Training for crematory operators is mostly acquired through on-the-job instruction provided by a funeral home, crematory, or experienced operator. This training typically includes observation of the cremation process, instruction in the operation of cremation equipment, identification verification procedures, and the processing and handling of cremated remains. The education and training of crematory operators in Nebraska is largely informal, employer-driven, and inconsistent across the industry. While some individuals may possess significant experience and voluntary certification, there is no uniform standard to ensure that all practitioners have achieved a baseline level of knowledge, technical skill, or competency prior to independently performing cremation procedures.

12) Identify the work settings typical of this occupation (e.g., hospitals, private physicians' offices, clinics, etc.) and identify the predominant practice situations of practitioners, including typical employers for practitioners not self-employed (e.g., private physician, dentist, optometrist, etc.).

Crematory operators in Nebraska primarily work in funeral service–related environments, with the most common setting being a crematory located within or affiliated with a licensed funeral establishment. Many funeral homes operate their own on-site crematories, where operators perform all aspects of the cremation process as part of the organization's overall disposition services. In these settings, crematory operators are typically employed directly by the funeral home and work closely with licensed funeral directors, support staff, and administrative personnel.

A second common work setting includes stand-alone or centralized crematories that provide services to multiple funeral homes, particularly in larger communities. Nebraska has one of these in operation currently in Omaha.

Additional Education and Training Anticipated Under this Proposal

At a minimum, applicants would be required to possess a high school diploma or equivalent, establishing a foundational level of general education.

In addition, applicants would be required to successfully complete a crematory operator certification course offered by a recognized training organization specializing in cremation practices. These programs—such as those provided by the Cremation Association of North America and similar industry groups—typically include formal instruction in cremation science, equipment operation, identification and chain-of-custody procedures, safety protocols, legal requirements, and ethical standards. Completion of such a course ensures that practitioners have received standardized, competency-based training prior to independently performing cremation procedures.

The proposal would also require ongoing education tied to the operational lifecycle of cremation license issued by DHHS. Specifically, crematory operators would be required to complete a refresher or continuing education course at least every five years, aligned with the renewal of licensure associated with the cremation machine. This requirement is intended to ensure that operators remain current on evolving best practices, technological updates, safety standards, and regulatory expectations.

Together, these requirements establish a clear and enforceable framework for both initial qualification and continued competency, moving away from the current reliance on informal,

employer-driven training and toward a standardized approach that promotes public trust, accountability, and professional integrity within crematory operations.

The applicant group proposes that licensed occupational therapists take an approved training course for the use of instrument assisted modalities, such as dry needling. Examples of such courses include:

[Cremation Association of North America](#)

[International Cemetery, Cremation, and Funeral Association](#)

[NFDA Crematory Certification Program](#)

13) Do practitioners routinely serve members of the general population? Are services frequently restricted to certain segments of the population (e.g., senior citizens, pregnant women, etc.)? If so, please specify the type of population served.

Crematory operators in Nebraska primarily work in funeral service–related environments, with the most common setting being a crematory located within or affiliated with a licensed funeral establishment. Stand-alone or centralized crematories provide services to multiple funeral homes, but never directly to the public.

By contrast, licensed funeral homes, through licensed funeral directors, are public-facing entities. They contract directly with families, make arrangements for final disposition, provide guidance on legal requirements, coordinate services, and are responsible for obtaining all necessary authorizations and permits. Funeral directors owe duties directly to the public, including fiduciary responsibilities related to handling funds, adherence to consumer protection laws, and compliance with state statutes governing funeral service practice. In this role, the funeral home is accountable to the family for the care, custody, and disposition of the decedent.

14) Identify the typical reasons a person would have for using the services of a practitioner. Are there specific illnesses, conditions or situations that would be likely to require the services of a practitioner? If so, please specify.

In Nebraska, the services of a crematory operator are utilized as part of the final disposition process following a person’s death, as authorized under the Nebraska Final Disposition Act, Nebraska Revised Statute § 71-1380. A person would require the services of a crematory operator when cremation has been selected as the method of final disposition by the individual with the legal right to control disposition, as defined in Nebraska Revised Statute § 71-1401.

The need for crematory services is not tied to any specific illness or medical condition but rather arises upon death from any cause—whether natural, accidental, or undetermined—once all legal requirements have been satisfied. These requirements include completion of the death certificate, authorization for cremation by the appropriate authorizing agent, and, when applicable, clearance

from a coroner or medical examiner in cases involving investigation or non-natural causes of death.

Under Nebraska statute, cremation is one of several legally recognized methods of final disposition, which also include burial and donation. Individuals or families may choose cremation for a variety of reasons, including personal preference, cultural or religious considerations, cost, environmental concerns, or logistical flexibility in memorialization. Once cremation is selected and properly authorized, a crematory operator is required to carry out the physical and technical process of reducing human remains to cremated remains in accordance with applicable laws and the instructions provided by the authorizing funeral establishment. However, these services could not be offered directly to the public. These services would have to be arranged through a funeral director per state statute.

15) Identify typical referral patterns to and from members of this occupational group. What are the most common reasons for referral?

There is no referral pattern. Cremation is an authorized form of disposition that is selected by the public at the funeral arrangements. Since a licensed funeral director is the only profession to handle final disposition, a certified crematory operator would work with the funeral director to ensure all legal steps have been followed before cremation can take place.

16) Is a prescription or order from a practitioner of another health occupation necessary in order for services to be provided?

Cremation is an authorized form of disposition that is selected by the public at the funeral arrangements.

17) How is continuing competence of credentialed practitioners evaluated?

Under this proposal, the continuing competence of credentialed crematory operators in Nebraska would be evaluated through a combination of periodic continuing education and renewal requirements tied to the operation of cremation equipment.

18) What requirements must the practitioner meet before his or her credentials may be renewed?

Credentialed practitioners would be required to complete a refresher or continuing education course at least every five years. This requirement would align with the typical registration associated with crematory equipment ensuring that operators remain current on evolving best practices, safety standards, technological updates, and legal requirements. These refresher courses would be offered by recognized training organizations, such as the Cremation Association of North America or similar industry providers, and would reinforce core competencies including identification procedures, chain-of-custody protocols, equipment operation, and ethical standards.

19) Identify other jurisdictions (states, territories, possessions, or the District of Columbia) wherein this occupation is currently regulated by the government, and the scopes of practice typical for this occupation in these jurisdictions.

Currently Kansas requires a crematory operator certification. Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Nevada and Ohio recognize certified crematory operators as well.

Additional Questions

1. Public Health Need • What problems or public health needs does this proposal aim to address?

Credentialing crematory operators ensures human remains are handled safely and regulated consistently. Operators manage high-temperature equipment, verify decedent identities, and handle hazardous materials. Without standardized oversight, risks include improper handling, unsafe operations, and errors that jeopardize public safety.

As Nebraska's cremation rates rise, specialized training is vital for infection control, equipment safety, and meeting legal obligations. Credentialing establishes competency standards to protect the public from preventable mistakes or unqualified practice.

Beyond safety, credentialing promotes professionalism and trust in the death care system. The state must ensure those performing these duties are properly qualified to serve families during vulnerable times.

2. Consideration of Regulatory Options • If the proposal involves regulating a profession not currently regulated in Nebraska, you must evaluate the feasibility and impact of each of the following methods. For each, describe whether it could work for your profession and how it would protect the public:

Inspection requirements

Injunctive relief (court orders to stop unsafe practices)

Regulating the business instead of individual providers

Regulating supervisors of the providers

Registration of providers

State certification of providers.

State licensure of providers

Inspection requirements

Inspection requirements could help protect the public if crematories are regularly inspected for proper identification procedures, recordkeeping, equipment maintenance, chain of custody practices, and compliance with health and safety standards. Inspections would help identify unsafe or unethical practices before harm occurs. However, inspections alone do not ensure that the individual operating the crematory is properly trained or qualified.

Injunctive relief (court orders to stop unsafe practices)

Injunctive relief could provide a way for the state to stop a crematory or operator from continuing unsafe or improper practices. This method could help in serious situations involving misconduct, fraud, or threats to public health and safety. However, injunctive relief is reactive rather than preventative and usually only occurs after harm or violations have already taken place.

Regulating the business instead of individual providers

Regulating the crematory business itself could establish minimum standards for operations, equipment, and procedures. This could improve overall accountability for facilities handling human remains. However, business regulation alone would not ensure that the individual performing the cremation has received proper education, training, or demonstrated competency. Funeral homes are regulated, but to prevent unrelated businesses this would bring all businesses

under the same scope and oversight. For the health of the public, no non-funeral home crematory should ever be allowed to be client facing without a funeral home license attached.

Regulating supervisors of the providers

Regulating only supervisors could provide some oversight if trained individuals are responsible for monitoring crematory staff and operations. A supervisor is already in place for the state license number, but that does not mean DHHS has any oversight on non-funeral home operations or crematory managers. Unsafe practices could still occur at the operator level without individual accountability. This would bring all crematories under DHHS licensure. By regulating supervisors the public would be able to see the crematory is being inspected and have proper licensure.

Registration of providers

While the state knows the number of registered crematories, there is no oversight/inspections of crematories or their practice. A basic level of oversight keeps people accountable for how statute says things are to be done and what the required documents are for cremation. This serves the public in having confidence that the remains they are getting back or their loved one and not something else.

State certification of providers

State certification would provide a meaningful level of public protection by establishing minimum education, training, competency, and ethical standards for crematory operators. Certification would help ensure operators understand identification procedures, chain of custody requirements, safety protocols, and proper handling of human remains. This option balances public protection with reasonable regulation and allows the state to take disciplinary action when standards are violated.

State licensure of providers

State licensure would provide the highest level of regulation and public protection by requiring mandatory qualifications, ongoing oversight, and disciplinary authority. Licensure could ensure uniform standards across Nebraska for crematory operators. By not being able to renew a license without continuing education of crematory operations, we are setting a standard that learning is continuing and pushing to be on the forefront of crematory laws and procedures for the interest and safety of the general public.

3. Public Benefit • What is the public benefit of regulating this profession or changing its scope of practice?

Regulating crematory operator certification in Nebraska would help protect the public by ensuring that individuals responsible for the cremation process are properly trained, qualified, and accountable. We are seeing neighboring states that have had major issues with crematories not doing what they are supposed to be doing or not having done maintenance and unable to perform cremations. ([Georgia Crematory](#)), [Chicago Crematory](#).

Risk Assessment • What is the potential risk to public health or welfare if this proposal is approved?

There is no risk to public health or welfare to the public by approving this. Rather it would add benefits of establishing professional standards and oversight for crematory operators. Certification would improve public protection by requiring education, and accountability for individuals responsible for handling human remains.

The primary impact of approval would be the added responsibility for operators to meet certification requirements such as training, continuing education, and compliance with state standards. However, these requirements are intended to reduce the risk of errors, misidentification, improper cremation practices, and unsafe operations.

Overall, approving crematory operator certification would strengthen public confidence, improve consistency in crematory practices, and enhance protections for Nebraska families during a highly sensitive process.

5. Competency Assurance • How would the state assess and ensure competency of individuals practicing under the proposed changes?

The state could assess and ensure competency of crematory operators through minimum education and training requirements, successful completion of a competency examination, and ongoing continuing education. Competency could also be maintained through renewal requirements and disciplinary oversight by the state. This would help ensure crematory operators continue to meet professional standards and remain qualified to safely and properly perform cremations in Nebraska.

6. Third-Party Reimbursement • What is the current and anticipated role of insurance or third-party payers in covering services from this profession?

Crematories should already be insured and have the proper insurance to mitigate the risk of operating a crematory. The insurance or third party aspect should not be affected.

7. Other Jurisdictions • How do other states or jurisdictions regulate this profession? • Provide any available data on:

Complaint rates

Disciplinary actions

General regulatory outcomes

Ohio: Requires the "Actually In Charge" (AIC) of a crematory to hold a state-issued Crematory Operator Permit (CROP) alongside a valid national certification and completion of a 2-hour Ohio crematory law course.

Texas: The Texas Funeral Service Commission requires crematory establishment license applications to verify that all operators of the cremation chamber are certified by a board-approved, reputable organization.

Arkansas: Mandates applicants complete a supervised 6-month training period, obtain an approved crematory retort operator certification, and pass a background check prior to licensing.

Maryland: Issues a standalone Registered Crematory Operator license for individuals who perform human cremations.

There is no single national database that tracks crematory complaints or disciplinary actions. Instead, each state's individual licensing board handles consumer complaints and bad practices.

When families or state investigators do file complaints against certified crematories, they usually fall into three categories:

- **Pricing Violations:** Failing to give clear pricing or forcing families to buy unneeded items. Undercover checks by the FTC show that roughly 15% of death care places fail price disclosure rules.
- **Recordkeeping Errors:** Mistakes in the chain-of-custody paperwork that tracks a body from the hospital to the final ashes.
- **Equipment and Maintenance Issues:** Environmental issues such as heavy smoke, bad smells, or faulty machinery.

Disciplinary actions

Administrative Fines: This is the most common punishment. Boards issue fines ranging from a few hundred dollars to tens of thousands of dollars depending on the severity.

Mandatory Retraining: Operators may be forced to retake a certified crematory operator course.

Probation: The facility can keep working but faces unannounced, frequent state checks. In Texas, for example, a violation triggers mandatory annual inspections.

License Revocation: Shutting down a facility completely is rare. State boards usually save this ultimate penalty for extreme misconduct, such as severe mishandling of remains or large-scale financial fraud.

The outcomes are difficult to find because they are all handled by their respective state boards. As far as outcomes are concerned, if you have repeat violators they should appear before the board and be held to the same standards as the licensed funeral directors are held in the state.

8. Cost Implications • What are the expected costs of regulating this profession? For the State of Nebraska or the public. For the provider.s • Consider how registration, certification, or licensure would impact the cost of services.

Cost implications would be minor if nothing additional. Crematories are already required to pay licensing fees every 5 years, but this certification would not allow a renewal without the proper steps being taken. The only cost would come in if the state pays an inspector to randomly drop into crematories in the state.

The provider is already paying the fee to renew the license. Only additional fees would include taking the crematory operator certification every 5 years and if they are not getting maintenance done, those costs could add up. Typically crematories pay for maintenance to verify their machine(s) is running as efficiently as possible. . Cost of services could be covered by as little as an additional \$5 per case basis. Larger operators may not need to increase charges at all.

Additional Information • Is there any other information that would help the Technical Review Committee understand your proposal better?

The basis for this is to not fall into the same trap as what has happened in Colorado. Years ago funeral homes and crematories were deregulated and not required to carry licensure. In the past year many firms have been found to be improperly disposing of human remains, storing human remains in an unsanitary environment, and loss of public trust throughout the process and afterwards. We as a state association would like to put this in place so the public of Nebraska can trust that we take this seriously and do not want the types of issues that are found in Chicago, Georgia, Colorado and other states where problems have been identified. Nebraska cremation rate is rising rapidly. State statutes are very dated and this would be a good step in regulating a form of disposition that is widely used in the state.