



Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science

www.pims.edu

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CLINICAL EMBALMING POLICY UPDATE

Dear PIMS Students,

This correspondence addresses a temporary change in the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science Clinical Embalming Policy. Due to the evolving situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, students may be affected with adjusted schedules and blended time on campus. Such changes may prevent students from completing all PIMS Clinical Embalming requirements necessary for graduation.

Effective this date, campus students may perform clinical embalming at APPROVED off-site facilities similar to DE students (please note that Funeral Service Skills Practicum Virtual Visits were already approved). The process to gain approval for a clinical embalming site is as follows:

- Send an email requesting approval to info@pims.edu
- A response will be provided by a PIMS administrator
- If approved please download, complete, and submit to Dean Michael Burns the attached Clinical Embalming Affiliation Packet (Funeral Service Skills Practicum Paperwork goes to Dr. Lease)
- While you are completing the Affiliation Agreement, you may move forward to perform your virtual visit of the Clinical Embalming. Please note this is a similar process to the virtual visit for a Funeral Service Practicum, but it is a different video with specific requirements directed towards the prep room. You cannot submit one video for both practical experiences.
 - Please find the following resources to help you in this process:
 - policy documents providing guidelines on performing these visits (attached to this email)
 - links below to our PIMS Unlisted YouTube channel which demonstrate actual virtual videos done by students
 - **CLINICAL EMBALMING:**
 - Clinical Embalming Virtual Visit Example by PIMS: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHKlkMfj_jg
 - Clinical Embalming Virtual Visit submitted with the permission of Kelsey Baxter: <https://youtu.be/ParYwm54Ia0>
 - Clinical Embalming Virtual Visit submitted with the permission of Jason Messick: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmjBgOCOsO0>
 - Clinical Embalming Virtual Visit submitted with the permission of Lauren Taylor: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIE3wkQPbH4>
 - As a helpful reminder here are the Funeral Service Practicum resources
 - **FUNERAL SERVICE PRACTICUM:**
 - Funeral Service Practicum Virtual Visit Example by PIMS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6SiNIT6-lc&t=8s>
 - Funeral Service Skills Practicum Virtual Visit submitted with the permission of Kelsey Baxter: <https://youtu.be/2f0VSGIngDk>

- Funeral Service Skills Practicum Virtual Visit submitted with the permission of Jason Messick: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6mDJeVmBRY_v=bnjBgOCOsO0
- Funeral Service Skills Practicum Virtual Visit submitted by Lauren Taylor: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cplCcgA4G3c>
 - visit checklists that the PIMS reviewers will use to validate your virtual visits (this is an internal document, but it allows you to see what we are looking for in the video)
 - Clinical Embalming Affiliation Agreement and the Funeral Service Skills Practicum Agreement (attached to email)
- Submit your Virtual Videos to Google Share inviting the info@pims.edu email. This is important because various administrators do reviews so you do not know who will be assigned.
- A response will be provided—you can start your practical training provided all paperwork is in order.
- Your account will be billed for \$50 if just one visit is done but if you do both Embalming and Practicum videos, the billing fee is \$75.

Campus students are still encouraged to do their clinical embalming at the PIMS facility, however, with an evolving situation, this allows students who return home to facilities to continue making progress while not in Pittsburgh.

This temporary policy change will be in effect throughout December 31, 2020 unless otherwise advised due to changes in the COVID-19 situation.

For any questions regarding this policy, you may contact the PIMS COVID-19 Pandemic Officer, Dean Michael Burns or any member of the administration at the Institute.

Sincerely,

Barry T. Lease

Dr. Barry T. Lease
Program Director