

# Cemetery and Crematorium Information

## Cremation Standards and Code of Practice

### The Standard

Southend Borough Council is a member of the Federation of British Cremation Authorities and adheres strictly to the Code of Cremation Practice, a copy of which can be seen at the crematorium office.

Members of the public are welcome to look over the premises by prior appointment.

After each service has concluded the coffin is removed from the chapel and individually cremated, exactly as it has been received into the chapel. An identity card, which is checked against the nameplate on the coffin, accompanies the coffin throughout the process ensuring the identity of the cremated remains.

There are a number of options available for the final resting place of cremated remains and instructions can only be given by the applicant for the funeral. You may wish for them to be buried in the crematorium Garden of Remembrance or in one of the Council's three cemeteries. Alternatively, they can be collected from the crematorium by the applicant or the funeral director and taken to rest elsewhere. Crematorium staff can advise on the available options and cremated remains can be held for up to a month pending a decision.

### Code of Practice

#### 1. Conduct

The cremation of a human body is a highly emotional occasion for those taking part in the service. This must never be forgotten by the crematorium staff who strive to create and maintain an atmosphere of reverence and respect throughout the entire proceedings.

#### 2. Staff

The greatest care must be taken in the appointment of members of the crematorium staff, any of whom may, by conduct or demeanour, detract from the atmosphere of reverence which it is endeavoured to create. All staff employed in the operation of cremators must be suitably trained in the ethical procedures and certificated as specified in the Secretary of State's Guidance Notes of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 or any subsequent legislation made thereunder.

#### 3. After Committal

(a) A body shall not be removed from the crematorium after the service of Committal except for a lawful purpose.

(b) Subject to receiving the necessary Authority to Cremate, the coffin and its contents shall be put into the cremator exactly as they have been received on the catafalque. All cremations will be completed within 24 hours of receipt of the coffin at the crematorium. A body not cremated on the same day as the coffin is received at the crematorium may only be retained overnight on the written consent of the Applicant for cremation or in exceptional circumstances deemed necessary by the Cremation Authority. All bodies retained at the crematorium will be accommodated in secure and sanitary conditions within the building.

(c) Once a coffin with its contents has been placed in the cremator, it shall not be interfered with until the process of cremation is completed and, following their reduction, shall be disposed of in accordance with the instructions received.

#### 4. Correct Identity

(a) No coffin shall be accepted at any Crematorium unless it bears adequate particulars of identity of the deceased person contained therein. If a coffin is encased, the cover and the coffin must bear adequate identity of the deceased person.

(b) Every care must be taken to ensure correct identification throughout the whole proceedings from the moment the coffin is received on the catafalque until the final disposal of the cremated remains.

#### 5. Separately Cremated

Each coffin given to the care of the Cremation Authority shall be cremated separately.

#### 6. Coffin Covers

When a re-usable cover is used to encase a coffin, a signed authority must be given by the Applicant for the cremation authorising its use and consenting to its subsequent removal from the crematorium.

#### 7. Metal Residues

Any metal found amongst the cremated remains shall not be salvaged for any purpose but shall be disposed of in aggregate in accordance with the directions of the Cremation Authority or Higher Authority.

#### 8. Cremated Remains

The utmost care shall be taken to ensure that the cremated remains, following their removal from the cremator, shall be kept separate and suitably identified. The cremated remains shall be reduced and placed in a separate container. If the cremated remains are to be disposed of in a Garden of Remembrance, this shall be conducted with reverence and respect. Cremated remains to be conveyed by a carrier service should be placed in a suitably labelled robust container and dealt with according to recommendations laid down by the Federation of British Cremation Authorities.

#### 9. Cremators and Ancillary Equipment

Cremators and all ancillary equipment used at the crematorium shall be kept in good repair and maintained in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations and the requirements of the current Guidance Notes issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 or subsequent legislation.

#### 10. Statutory Regulations

All cremations shall be carried out according to the provisions of the Cremation Acts and the Regulations made thereunder and any subsequent legislation.