**How Funeral Directors Can Support Arizona Families**

**Who Wish to Direct or Participate in Care for Their Own Dead**

*“The most important support funeral directors can provide home funeral families is the compassionate understanding that this is something families feel called to do for their loved one and themselves, their friends, and community. Home funeral families by and large are looking for simplicity, self-reliance, personal responsibility, and a shared, intimate experience that only they can conceive of and conduct.”*

—Lee Webster, National Home Funeral Alliance (NHFA)

“*How Funeral Directors Can Support Home Funeral Families*”

Arizona families have the legal right to custody and control of their own dead. Whether the death was anticipated or unanticipated, once time and cause of death are established, the family may choose to care for and transport the body, file the death certificate, arrange for burial, and conduct any other aspect of after-death care. Families choosing to conduct a home funeral may do so without assistance from a funeral director or may prefer to have a funeral director handle some but not all of these tasks.

**Legal Authority of Families in Arizona**

In Arizona, the legislative authority for families to act as unpaid funeral services practitioners is found in **Arizona Statute § 36-326** where the law declares that a body disposition permit may be issued to “a funeral director *or other responsible person*.” The responsible person is described additionally as the “Authoring agent” in ARS 36-831, starting with the spouse or designated agent.

**How can funeral directors assist families who choose home funerals?**

*Please see also:* *“How Funeral Directors Can Support Home Funeral Families”* for 12 categories of services and goods funeral homes can offer to support home funeral families. www.azfuneral.org/how\_funeral\_directors\_can\_help

**Information to Provide Families**

Arizona Funeral Resources & Education www.AZfuneral.org

National End-of-Life Doula Alliance www.nedalliance.org

National Home Funeral Alliance www.homefuneralalliance.org

Funeral Consumers Alliance www.funerals.org