

Notice to the Profession

OPERATING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE *FUNERAL, BURIAL AND CREMATION SERVICES ACT,* *2002*

The Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) is reminding all licensees to ensure that they are operating in accordance with the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, (2002)*, S.O. 2002, c. 33 (the "Act") and its regulations.

The BAO has become aware that certain persons wish to unlawfully provide services and supplies regulated under the Act. These persons are not licensed but may be holding themselves out as entitled to sell or provide supplies and services.

Part III of the Act describes the prohibitions and general duties regarding the operation of business. The section makes clear that all operators and owners who are subject to the Act must proactively ensure that they are not retaining unlicensed supplies and services. Licensed Operators must also ensure that persons carrying out duties on their behalf comply with the Act and its regulations.

Operators and Licensees are also prohibited from assisting in the sale or provision of unlicensed supplies and services. Operators and Licensees must exercise due diligence and satisfy themselves that they are engaging with parties holding the appropriate prescribed licence. The BAO reminds operators and licensees that the sale or use of such supplies/services on behalf of an unlicensed party is a contravention of the Act and its regulations.

The BAO will exercise the enforcement mechanisms under the Act to protect the integrity of licensed professionals. In so doing, the BAO is taking measures to ensure that consumers are protected by not purchasing unlicensed supplies and services.

Licensees can confirm the status of a person or business by contacting the BAO. In addition, individuals may search for licensed funeral and transfer services online at: <http://bereavementauthorityontario.ca/Pro/Register>

Licensees who become aware of such activities are urged to contact the BAO.