

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Funeral Rule ensures that consumers who are purchasing funeral goods and service have accurate information about the terms and conditions (especially prices) for such goods and services. The Rule requires that funeral providers disclose this information to consumers and maintain records to facilitate enforcement of the Rule.

Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from OMB for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. On November 21, 2001, the FTC sought comment on the information collection requirements associated with the Funeral Rule, 16 CFR part 453 (OMB Control Number: 3084–0025). See 66 FR 58492. The FTC received one public comment, from the National Funeral Directors Association, which staff learned of only following its sending an information clearance request package to OMB for review (pursuant to OMB regulations that implemented the PRA, 5 CFR part 120), contemporaneous with its publishing a related notice to that effect in the **Federal Register** on January 25, 2002. See 67 FR 3709.

OMB granted the FTC an interim extension on March 22, 2002 running through September 30, 2002, and requested that the FTC publish revised burden estimates resulting from the comment received and further staff consultations with other industry representatives. The FTC will also, upon request, make available its complete analysis/response to comments it transmitted to OMB on March 21, 2002.

While the primary purpose of this notice is to summarize the revised burden estimates, FTC staff and OMB will consider additional comments before OMB acts on the FTC's request to extend the clearance for a three year period to March 30, 2005.¹ These comments should be directed to the addresses shown above and submitted within 30 days following publications of this notice. If a comment contains nonpublic information, it must be filed in paper form, and the first page of the document must be clearly labeled "confidential." Comments that do not contain any nonpublic information may instead be filed in electronic form (in ASCII format, WordPerfect, or Microsoft Word) as part of or as an attachment to

¹ The 3-year clearance is tied to the date the OMB clearance would have expired but for the interim extension.

² The original version of the Funeral Rule required that funeral providers retain a copy of and give each customer a separate "Statement of Funeral Goods and Services Selected." The 1994 amendments to the Rule eliminated that requirement, allowing instead for such disclosures to be incorporated into a written contract, bill of sale, or other record of a transaction that providers use to memorialize sales agreements with customers.

³ A slowly but steadily increasing minority of funeral homes advertise their prices (e.g., newspapers, other publications, and the Internet). These homes presumably will receive price-related inquiries less frequently than would those who do not advertise their prices.

⁴ Rule compliance is generally included in continuing education requirements for licensing and voluntary certification programs. Moreover, the FTC has provided its Compliance Guide to all funeral providers at no cost, and additional copies are available on the FTC Web site or by mail.

⁵ According to one nonpublic survey by an industry association, approximately 70% of its members that responded were from funeral homes with 1–5 employees. Moreover, according to a recent NFDA survey, the median number of full-time employees within member homes was 3, as was the case for part-time employees. *National*

CHANGES IN FTC COST ESTIMATES—Continued

Activity	Prior FTC estimate (\$)	Revised FTC estimate (\$)
7. Training Licensed and Non-Licensed Funeral Home Staff	0.00	864,125
Total	4,177,223	5,071,085