

My name is Alex Hamilton and I am a Funeral Director/ Supervisor and the Noll Funeral Home in Beaver

My goal today is to education everyone not really what I do but the different variations of what a funeral director is or can be

Schooling:

At that time PIMS had a few different paths you could take furthering education in Mortuary Science depending on your past education, etc.

I went right out of high school so I decided the best program for me was the Bachelor of Science Degree program, also known as the "Capstone Program".

This included an Associated degree in Specialized Business (Funeral Service management) and then when on to get a Bachelor of Science from Point Park.

Totaling three years of schooling plus a one year internship.

Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science from 2013- 2016 and Point Park University from 2016-2017.

One year of internship to obtain state issued professional license. We are mandated and follow child reporting laws etc.

Once becoming a licensed director you can take a few different paths:

TRADE EMBALMER is an embalmer that not only works for one funeral home, but works at multiple. You typically aren't seen to the public as a trade embalmer, just show up when there is a call to embalm, and then you leave.

This trade embalmer usually has more experience as that's all they do, they have the opportunity to use those acquired skills to become a restorative artist.

TRADE FUNERAL DIRECTOR is not as common as a trade embalmer but still the same as trade funeral director. This is typically when you fill in for a funeral director when they leave for vacation, or that funeral home has gotten very busy and requires another director to finish out the week.

IN HOUSE FUNERAL DIRECTOR is what I would call myself. This, in my opinion is the best option, being that one day I Hope to own my own funeral home. Being there at one funeral home for all funerals is the best way for you to get to know your community.

Preneed Sales Director is a director that still holds a license, but only does what we call "preneed sales". That is a director that would only do the preneed side. They meet with families before the passing, or even the person themselves to plan their own funeral. This is usually a commission based