

Retz Funeral Home

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May 12, 2020

MEMO CONCERNING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I do not need to repeat much of the information here about the current pandemic.

I more than many people miss having funerals and memorial services at churches, Often the church was a central part of a person's life and not being able to have their last worship service in the church is difficult.

Most of the churches in our area have chosen to delay opening up or have instituted strict rules for opening. This is their right and responsibility. And we are working with clergy and families on a 1 on 1 basis to meet their needs and wishes.

We tried to open the funeral home to greater numbers of people and learned a few things that were eye opening. In consultation with the family we are serving and the clergy involved the following will be our guides for determining what we do for funerals.

1. Funerals and memorial services at this time will be held in the funeral home. Only if the church is opening up will the option be available at this time.
2. All services at the funeral home will be streamed on-line unless the family requests not to. There is no additional cost to the family for this service.
3. Services at the funeral home will be limited to family only, while usually this is spouse, children, grandchildren and siblings, this may be adjusted on a 1 on 1 basis for the needs of the family.
4. In any event, numbers in the funeral home will be limited to state and federal guidelines, without exception.
5. Family members from a region in Iowa that are high risk or still under extra restrictions are requested to not attend in person. Persons traveling from other countries will be asked to not attend in person. Persons from other states or other areas of this country will be screened and may be asked not to attend.
6. Attendees may choose to wear a mask but it will not be required at this time. We are unable to supply masks to the public due to our difficulty in acquiring needed Personal Protective Equipment for our routine use.

These guides will be used as guides only. It is hoped that this will help families and clergy to understand how this pandemic may affect their family. The main purpose of this is to protect the health of all attendees and clergy as well as members of the public we contact after this service.

These guides will be in place until no longer needed.

Fredric J. Retz
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