



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE

Number: OOL Interpretive Guidance No. 3
Date: December 2, 2020
Re: Large Gathering/Capacity Limits at Funeral Homes

Interpretive guidance was requested as to the number of individuals that are currently allowed to gather at a funeral home located in Prince George's County, Maryland. Council Resolution (CR-125-2020), that is titled, "Prince George's County, Maryland's Seventh Continued Declaration of Emergency—Coronavirus (COVID-19)," was adopted by the Prince George's County Council on November 17, 2020 and is in effect through January 15, 2021, unless amended or terminated earlier. CR-125-2020 includes the following general restriction on large gatherings in Section V, which states, in part, the following:

Section V. General Rule for large gatherings and events. Unless specifically allowed otherwise, social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events are:

- a. limited to **1 person/household per 200 square feet, or a maximum of 10 persons—whichever is lower**— at all **indoor** locations and venues, including but not limited to: private residences, parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers.
- b. limited to **1 person/household per 200 square feet, or a maximum of 25 persons—whichever is lower**-- at all **outdoor** locations and venues, including but not limited to: private residences, parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers.

Planned larger gatherings and events must be canceled or postponed. CDC, MDH and County social distancing protocols must be followed.

The Prince George's County Office of Law ("OOL") recommends that the Prince George's County Government interpret the above-referenced provision to apply to all funeral homes located in Prince George's County, Maryland. The above-referenced provision applies to all large gatherings in Prince George's County, Maryland, "unless specifically allowed otherwise," in Council Resolution, CR-125-2020. Council Resolution, CR-125-2020, does not specifically authorize funeral homes to have large gatherings indoors or outdoors that exceed the limits in Section V, which is provided above. **Funeral homes are authorized to have 1 person/household per 200 square feet, or a maximum of 10 persons—whichever is lower, in each separate visitation/viewing room and large gatherings outdoors that do not exceed 1 person/household per 200 square feet, or a maximum of 25 persons—whichever is lower.**

The indoor gathering capacity limit for funeral homes is applicable to each separate visitation/viewing room. Therefore, all funeral homes must restrict large gatherings to the limits provided in Section V of Council Resolution 125-2020 and adhere to all other provisions in CR-125-2020, most notably Section II – Face Coverings and Section III - General Rules for All Establishments Allowed to Open or Operate in the County, unless amended or terminated sooner by the County Executive or as extended by a subsequent resolution of the governing body. This Interpretive Guidance may be revised or rescinded at any time. Citizens and businesses are urged to consult with their own legal counsel for advice about the application of the Order and this Interpretive Guidance to their particular facts and circumstances.