



<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXVI/Chapter114/Section45>

Section 45. Except as provided in sections forty-four and forty-six, no undertaker or other person shall bury or otherwise dispose of a human body in a town, or remove there from a human body which has not been buried, until he has received a permit from the board of health or its agent appointed to issue such permits, or if there is no such board, from the clerk of the town where the person died; and no undertaker or other person shall exhume a human body and remove it from a town, from one cemetery to another, or from one grave or tomb other than the receiving tomb to another in the same cemetery, until he has received a permit from the board of health or its agent aforesaid or from the clerk of the town where the body is buried. No such permit shall be issued until there shall have been delivered to such board, agent or clerk, as the case may be, a satisfactory written statement containing the facts required by law to be returned and recorded, which shall be accompanied, in case of an original interment, by a satisfactory certificate of the attending physician, if any, as required by law, or in lieu thereof a certificate as hereinafter provided.

Notification is made to the Burial Permit Manager that an exhumation is requested.

Written statement is given to the Burial Permit Manager on the reason for the exhumation.

The District Attorney involved in the case or the District Attorney that has jurisdiction of the location of remains must give a written statement on the purpose and reason for exhumation.

The original death certificate must be presented for the permit to be given.

The Burial Permit Manager will issue a letter outlining the removal and all pertinent information needed to document the exact location of the remains and the purpose of the exhumation.

The Exhumation Permit is issued and signed by the Burial Permit Manager.

Permit is then endorsed and original document is returned to the Burial Permit Manager.

Once forensic studies or purpose of exhumation is complete, a new Burial Permit is issued for the remains to be reinterred or removed to another location for burial.

For Additional Information and Permit, please contact:

James Imprescia, Manager Burial Permit Office
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