



Pueblo de San Ildefonso

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Funeral Procedures During COVID-19 Pandemic

The primary purpose of these temporary funeral procedures is to safeguard the people of the Pueblo de San Ildefonso (“Pueblo”), while still being considerate to the immediate family of the deceased. The procedures have been established with the consultation and approval from the spiritual and religious leaders of the Pueblo. This document is intended to provide guidance to families in their most difficult time. It is not intended to address every possible situation. If unclear on a specific matter, the family should consult with the Tribal Officials, who are the Governor and the Church Fiscales, and their contact information is found below. It is intended that the Funeral Procedures be in effect on a temporary basis and are subject to change as the COVID-19 pandemic situation changes.

A. Upon Death In Community

1. Family **must** notify the Tribal Officials of the death to ensure coordination and compliance with the Funeral Procedures. The Tribal Officials will be responsible for coordinating and keeping family informed.
2. The Rivera Funeral Home in Espanola has been contracted by the Pueblo to provide burial services/assistance in accordance with the Funeral Procedures. The Pueblo will cover the cost for the following services:
 - Transport of deceased to Rivera Funeral Home and to the grave site;
 - Storage of the body;
 - Area for bathing and dressing following COVID-19 protocol;
 - Preparation of the body for burial, including the basic container/coffin;
 - Viewing at the Rivera Funeral Home Chapel according to New Mexico COVID-19 laws, but no viewing will be allowed for COVID-Positive or Suspected deceased.
 - Anything additional to these services/costs will be the responsibility of the family.
3. **COVID-Positive or Suspected**: If there is any reason whatsoever to believe that the deceased could be positive for COVID-19, then neither the Pueblo nor the family will have access to the body, and the Funeral Home will be responsible for all funeral activities and will follow all established practices to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19.
4. **Non-COVID**: If there is no reason to believe that the deceased is positive for COVID-19, then the family will be allowed the choice of having:
 - a. the immediate family, in coordination with the Tribal Officials, take care of the funeral process at home; or
 - b. Rivera Funeral Home provide funeral services for the deceased. The family, in coordination with the Tribal Officials, may have the Funeral Home provide some or all of the funeral services. For example, the family may use the Funeral Home for storage and transport of the body only.

B. Modified Funeral Practices

1. **Dressing of Body**:
 - a. **Non-COVID**: The family members or designee may dress the body at home or dressing activity may take place at the Funeral Home following their protocol if the family chooses.

- b. **COVID-Positive or Suspected:** The family cannot dress the body and the Funeral Home will follow the procedure in A.3. above.
2. **Mass Gathering Numbers and Requirements:**
 - a. Mass indoor gatherings of more than 10 people in a room at any one time are prohibited at any indoor location, home, or Funeral Home.
 - b. Mass outdoor gathering for purposes of a funeral is defined as up to 30 people at least 6 feet apart from each other. We will remind people of the need to disperse if a gathering is too large.
3. **Rosary/Wake:**
 - a. **Non-COVID:** Rosary/Wakes at the home are permitted provided that the indoor and outdoor mass gathering number limits are followed. **This should be restricted to the immediate family only.** Rosary/wakes may also be held at the Funeral Home if the family chooses.
 - b. **COVID-Positive or Suspected:** No rosary/wake at the home with the body is permitted and the family must follow the procedure in A.3. above.
4. **Feeding/Taking of Food to Family/Donations:** Outside food is discouraged. Feeding of guests and other family is also discouraged. It is advised that the immediate family prepare food and feed themselves, but no one else.
5. **Funeral Mass:** No funeral mass is allowed at this time. The Church is only doing a blessing of the body outside of the Church. Gathering at the grave site or Church blessing is permitted provided that the number limits and social distancing requirements are followed.
6. **Procession to Church:** We ask that all people try and stay at least 6 feet apart.
7. **Burial:**
 - a. **Non-COVID:** The Fiscales will coordinate, identify and dig, or direct digging of the burial site. The Fiscales and others assisting will be provided PPE equipment.
 - b. **COVID-Positive or Suspected:** The Fiscales will not be placing deceased in the ground. The Funeral Home will do this with the assistance of the Fiscales. The Fiscales will still coordinate, identify and dig, or direct digging of the burial site. The Fiscales and others assisting will be provided PPE equipment.
 - c. **Grave Diggers and Assistance:** We understand that people wish to help or are asked to help by the family. We ask that grave diggers be limited to 5 or 6 people at the site at a time and that others relieve and switch out with those at the site as needed. The Fiscales have the discretion to coordinate the grave diggers.
 - d. **Attendees at Burial:** We ask that only the immediate family, Tribal Spiritual leader, and Priest be at burial site. All attendees must practice 6 feet social distancing at the grave site. All others are asked to either remain outside of the wall subject to strict social distancing requirements OR remain by their vehicles away from the cemetery wall.
8. **Post Burial:** The traditional ceremony in the days following the death may be practiced by only the immediate family at their own home. No mass gatherings.
9. **Out-of-Town Family and Guests:** We understand that people want to offer support and comfort to the deceased's family. However, we need to keep the community's overall health and safety in mind and continue to comply with the Pueblo's closure order, including quarantine requirements. Visitors from outside of the Pueblo and out-of-town are strongly discouraged from attending the funeral activities and may be restricted from entering the Pueblo. Tribal members coming from out-of-state are required to comply with the Pueblo's quarantine requirements.
10. **Social Distancing and Masks:** Although it is difficult, people must refrain from close contact with each other before, during and after the funeral. People must refrain from hugging, kissing, sharing food, and other forms of contact. Masks must be worn during the funeral process and when interacting with individuals outside of your immediate household. Frequent washing or sanitizing of hands and careful disposal of tissues is essential.

C. Contact Information:

- Governor Christopher Moquino: Office: (505) 455-2273
- Leon Roybal: (505) 231-3848
- Ryan Calabaza: (505) 490-7598
- Jose Aguilar: (505) 252-9667
- Michael “Bo” Martinez: (505)660-2773