

# SOUTHERN MICHIGAN SERVICES

4900 Fernlee Avenue  
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073

## AUTHORIZATION FOR CREMATION

I, the undersigned (the Authorizing Agent) hereby authorize Southern Michigan Services, subject to its rules and regulations to cremate the human remains of \_\_\_\_\_ . I have identified the human remains delivered to the funeral home as the decedent and have given proper authorization to deliver the decedent to Southern Michigan Services, for cremation.

### IDENTIFICATION

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of Death \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Was death caused by an infectious or contagious disease?  Yes  No If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Type of casket or container selected \_\_\_\_\_

### PACEMAKERS AND RADIOACTIVE IMPLANTS

ALL PACEMAKERS AND RADIOACTIVE IMPLANTS MUST BE REMOVED PRIOR TO DELIVERING THE DECEDENT TO SOUTHERN MICHIGAN SERVICES

### LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

As the Authorizing Agent(s), I (we) hereby agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Southern Michigan Services, its officers, agents and employees, of and from any and all claims, demands, causes or causes of action, and suits of every kind, nature and description, in law or equity, including any legal fees, costs and expenses of litigation, arising as a result of, based upon or connected with this authorization, including the failure to properly identify the decedent or the human remains transmitted to Southern Michigan Services, the processing, shipping and final disposition of the decedent's cremated remains, the failure to take possession of or make proper arrangements for the final disposition of the cremated remains, any damage due to harmful or explodable implants, claims brought by any other person(s) claiming the right to control the disposition of the decedent or the decedent's cremated remains, or any other action performed by Southern Michigan Services, its officers, agents or employees, pursuant to this authorization, excepting only acts of willful negligence.

### SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZING AGENT(S)

***THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT. IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT PROVISIONS CONCERNING CREMATION. CREMATION IS IRREVERSIBLE AND FINAL. — READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING.***

By executing this Cremation Authorization Form, as Authorizing Agent(s), the undersigned warrant that all representations and statements contained on this form are true and correct, that these statements were made to induce Southern Michigan Services to cremate the human remains of the decedent, and that the undersigned have read both front and reverse side of this form and understand the provisions contained on this form.

Executed at \_\_\_\_\_, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Funeral Director as Witness for Signature(s) of Authorizing Agent(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Address of Funeral Home

### REPRESENTATIONS OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR

By executing this authorization form as a licensed funeral director and agent/employee of the funeral home indicated above, I warrant to the best of my knowledge the following:

1. That our funeral home was responsible for making arrangements with the Authorizing Agent(s) for the cremation of the decedent and that I have reviewed this authorization form with the Authorizing Agent(s).
2. That our funeral home obtained all necessary permits authorizing the cremation of the decedent, and that those permits are attached.

# SOUTHERN MICHIGAN SERVICES

## POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

The cremation, processing and disposition of the remains of the deceased shall be performed in accordance with all governing laws, and the policies, procedures and requirements of Southern Michigan Services and the designated funeral home.

This document describes many of the policies and requirements of Southern Michigan Services and is incorporated in our Cremation Authorization Form. We suggest you take the time to read this document carefully before executing the Cremation Authorization Form.

### SOUTHERN MICHIGAN SERVICES REQUIREMENTS FOR CREMATION

*Cremation will take place only after all the following conditions have been met.*

- 1.) Civil and medical authorities have issued all required permits.
- 2.) All necessary authorizations have been obtained, and no objections have been raised.

### CASKETS/CONTAINERS

Southern Michigan Services requires either a combustible casket or an alternative (cremation) container for cremation. **Metal caskets will not be accepted.** All caskets and alternative containers must meet the following standards: 1) be composed of materials suitable for cremation; 2) be able to be closed to provide a complete covering for the human remains; 3) be resistant to leakage or spillage; 4) be sufficient for handling with ease; and 5) be able to provide protection for the health and safety of crematory personnel.

Many caskets that are comprised primarily of combustible material also contain some exterior parts, e.g. decorative handles or rails, that are not combustible and that may cause damage to the cremation equipment. Southern Michigan Services, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to remove these non-combustible materials prior to cremation and to discard them with similar materials from other cremations and other refuse in a non-recoverable manner.

### PACEMAKERS AND RADIOACTIVE DEVICES

Pacemakers, as well as any other mechanical or radioactive devices or implants in the decedent, may create a hazardous condition when placed in the cremation chamber, it is imperative that pacemakers and radioactive devices be removed prior to cremation. If the funeral home is not notified about such devices and implants, and not instructed to remove them, then the person(s) authorizing the cremation will be responsible for any damages caused to Southern Michigan Services or crematory personnel by such devices or implants.

### THE CREMATION PROCESS

All cremations are performed individually. Southern Michigan Services will only place the human remains of one individual in the cremation chamber at a time.

Cremation is performed by placing the deceased in a casket or other container and then placing the casket or container into a cremation chamber or retort, where they are subjected to intense heat and flame. During the cremation process, it may be necessary to open the cremation chamber and reposition the deceased in order to facilitate a complete and thorough cremation. Through the use of a suitable fuel, incineration of the container and contents is accomplished and all substances are consumed or driven off, except bone fragments (calcium compounds) and metal (including dental gold and silver and other nonhuman material) as the temperature is not sufficient to consume them.

Due to the nature of the cremation process any personal possessions or valuable materials, such as dental gold or jewelry (as well as any body prosthesis or dental bridgework), that are left with the decedent and not removed from the casket or container prior to cremation will be destroyed or if not destroyed, will be disposed of by Southern Michigan Services. As the casket or container will not normally be opened by Southern Michigan Services (to remove valuables, to allow for a final viewing or for any other reason), arrangements must be made with the funeral home to remove any such possessions or valuables prior to the time that the decedent is transported to Southern Michigan Services.

Following a cooling period, the cremated remains, which will normally weigh several pounds in the case of an average size adult, are then swept or raked from the cremation chamber. Southern Michigan Services makes a reasonable effort to remove all of the cremated remains from the cremation chamber, but it is impossible to remove all of them, as some dust and other residue from the process are always left behind. In addition, while every effort will be made to avoid commingling, inadvertent or incidental commingling of minute particles of cremated remains from the residue of previous cremations is a possibility.

After the cremated remains are removed from the cremation chamber, all non-combustible materials (insofar as possible), such as bridgework, and materials from the casket or container, such as hinges, latches, nails, etc., will be separated and removed from the human bone fragments by visible or magnetic selection and will be disposed of by Southern Michigan Services with similar materials from other cremations in a non-recoverable manner.

When the cremated remains are removed from the cremation chamber, the skeletal remains often contain recognizable bone fragments. Unless otherwise specified, after the bone fragments have been separated from the other material, they will then be mechanically processed (pulverized). This process of crushing or grinding may cause incidental commingling of the remains with the residue from the processing of previously cremated remains. These granulated particles of unidentifiable dimensions will be virtually unrecognizable as human remains.