

(a) An individual shall obtain an apprentice license from the Board before beginning an apprenticeship in this State.

(B) (1) AN APPLICANT FOR A MORTICIAN APPRENTICE LICENSE SHALL HAVE A SPONSOR WITH A CURRENT MORTICIAN LICENSE.

(2) AN APPLICANT FOR A FUNERAL DIRECTOR LICENSE SHALL HAVE A SPONSOR WITH A CURRENT MORTICIAN OR FUNERAL DIRECTOR LICENSE.

~~(C)~~ **(C)** An applicant for an apprentice license shall pay to the Board a fee set by the Board.

~~(D)~~ **(D)** (1) Prior to an individual appearing before the Board for approval of an apprentice license, the individual must complete two-thirds of the academic credits for a mortuary science program at a school accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service or approved by the Board, with a 2.0 grade point average or higher that is verified with a certified copy of the college transcript.

(2) The applicant shall appear before the Board with the applicant's sponsor. The sponsor shall hold a current valid mortician license in Maryland and shall be employed by the same funeral home that employs the apprentice.

(3) The practical experience of an apprentice shall include:

(i) Participation in at least 20 funerals;

(ii) [Assistance] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ASSISTANCE in the ~~embalming~~ PREPARATION of at least 20 dead human bodies FOR FINAL DISPOSITION; and**

(iii) Completion of 1,000 working hours in a licensed funeral establishment under the direct supervision of a licensed mortician **OR FUNERAL DIRECTOR**. Supervision may include instruction by other licensed morticians **OR FUNERAL DIRECTORS** employed or supervised by the sponsor.

~~(4) THE REQUIREMENT IN PARAGRAPH (3)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO AN APPRENTICE WHO SUBMITS TO THE BOARD AN AFFIDAVIT STATING THAT:~~

~~(i) PARTICIPATION IN EMBALMING WOULD CONFLICT WITH THE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF THE APPRENTICE; AND~~