



Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2018

2018 No. 7

Church services

4 Funerals: conduct

- (1) A clerk in Holy Orders who is authorised to officiate in accordance with the Canons of the Church of England may perform a funeral service in a crematorium, cemetery or other place which is not a church or churchyard, and in which the clerk would not otherwise be entitled to perform the service, if—
 - (a) the persons concerned have asked the clerk to perform the service, and
 - (b) the clerk has, so far as practicable, informed the relevant minister and sought his or her goodwill.
- (2) The “relevant minister” is—
 - (a) the minister of the parish on whose electoral roll the deceased’s name was entered, or
 - (b) if the deceased’s name was not entered on the electoral roll of a parish or the persons concerned do not know whether it was, the minister of the parish which included the deceased’s usual place of residence.
- (3) The performance of a funeral service in accordance with subsection (1) does not require the consent, and is not subject to the control, of the minister of the parish in which the service is performed.
- (4) In subsection (1), “church” and “churchyard” each have the same meaning as they have in relation to a funeral service in the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986 (see section 10 of that Measure).
- (5) In section 2 of the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 1992 (conduct of funeral services), in subsection (2), after “may perform” insert “or arrange the performance of”.

- (6) In subsection (4) of that section, after “be under the same obligation” insert “(subject to subsection (4A))”.
- (7) After that subsection insert—
 - “(4A) Each of the following may perform a funeral service under an arrangement made under subsection (2) or (4)—
 - (a) a clerk in Holy Orders who is authorised to officiate in accordance with the Canons of the Church of England;
 - (b) a duly authorised deaconess, reader or lay worker.”
- (8) The first rubric at the beginning of the Order for the Burial of the Dead in the Book of Common Prayer (which notes that the Order may not be used if the deceased is unbaptised, excommunicate or a suicide of sound mind) is omitted.