

Newest info: March 17, 2020

Yesterday Gov JB Pritzker issued an executive order in response to COVID-19. This is the section that pertains to funeral homes under the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation:

Section 2. Beginning March 18, 2020, all public and private gatherings in the State of IL of 50 people or more are prohibited for the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation. A public or private gathering includes community, civic, public leisure, faith-based events, sporting events with spectators, concerts, conventions, and any similar event or activity that brings together 50 or more people in a single room or a single space at the same time. This includes venues such as fitness centers/health clubs, bowling alleys, private clubs, and theaters. This does not include venues that provide essential goods or services such as grocery stores, hospitals, pharmacies, gas stations, bank/credit unions, and shelters.

It goes on to say in section 3 that this will be enforced by the IL State Police, the IL Dept. of Health and others that will have the power to enforce these provisions.

The health and safety of the families and communities we serve is our highest priority. First and foremost, it is important to us that you know our promise to support you and your family continues to stand firm. We will still provide the same level of service, compassion, and dignity for your loved one, while we are all navigating an unprecedented situation. We have been diligently and proactively taking the necessary steps to remain in a position to serve you.

Indeed, our compliance with these directives is to keep your families safe, as well as our staff. We will do our part as well. To help save lives and slow the spread of this virus, effective immediately we will abide by and conform to the guidelines and recommendations. After they lift these sanctions and recommendations, we will be able to hold public services or celebration of life events for those who died during this pandemic. We will remain calm, steadfast and will meet these challenges together. We are working on options to be available to our families and to all of you. We are still here and committed to serve you and provide the same level of compassion and dignified service.

Please call (309) 342-1913 and we will be happy to sign your name in the book or leave a condolence for the family. Our website [www.watsonthomas.com](http://www.watsonthomas.com) offers a place to leave condolences and watch video tributes. We understand this could be an inconvenience for some, but we will do our best to protect the families we serve and the public as we endure these challenging times. We wish each and every one of you only the best, may God Bless all of you.

It is unclear the exact duration of this executive order, and it can be amended at any time.

Thank you,

Mark and Tricia Thomas and the staff at Watson Thomas Funeral Home and Crematory