

IMPORTANT NOTICE: UNAUTHORIZED OBITUARY REPOSTING

To the families and community members that we serve,

We are very concerned and wish to warn consumers about the persistent issue of copied or 'pirated' death notices and obituaries that are affecting grieving families across the province.

There are companies continuing to make money by reposting obituaries **without the permission, or even knowledge of**, the grieving families and funeral homes which originally posted them.

These companies often copy, paste, and sometimes rewrite obituaries originally posted in newspapers and funeral home websites. The companies then use these **unauthorized** postings to offer to sell candles, plant a tree, and/or sell other in-memoriam gifts – which people mistakenly think are on behalf of the families.

The Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) **does not** regulate these non-licensed businesses operating commercial websites.

Advice to families:

To help consumers, we are sharing the following advice:

- There is a risk that in posting a death notice or obituary (on a website of a funeral establishment or local newspaper) that a company could copy and paste the information for their own profit;
- Copying death notices and reposting them **is not done by licensed professionals**
- Families can ask the company to remove the copied obituaries and death notices from their websites. (In most cases they have removed them following a request from families of the deceased.)
- Verify any obituaries and death notices before buying anything.

Verify:

People can verify online obituaries and death notices by:

- Only trusting death notices and obituaries posted on BAO-licensed funeral establishment websites. BAO-licensed businesses display the 'Licensed by the BAO' badge at the bottom of their homepages;

- Checking the name of the business that has posted the obituary/death notice on the [BAO's Public Register](#), which lists all licensed businesses and individuals. (The Public Register is also linked on our public website, [TheBAO.ca](#));
- Calling the funeral home establishment or other BAO-licensed businesses in the area if the family is unsure; or,
- Emailing the BAO at Licensing@TheBAO.ca.

What is being done?

The BAO has published [Notices to the Consumer by the Registrar](#), alerted the public in their social media feed and provided information in many news articles, including television (CTV). The BAO advises our families to remain vigilant with this issue.

Lampman Funeral Home is committed to protecting and supporting our community at large and if you have questions or concerns about this please do not hesitate to contact us.