

# **ADVISORY BULLETIN**

TRANSMITTAL NO. 2016-5

**TO: ALL FUNDED PROGRAMS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**FROM: ELIZABETH CRONIIN, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: Burial Expenses**

**DATE: August 30, 2016**

OVS proposed, and the Governor recently signed into law (Chapter 243), a change to our enacting statute related to the eligibility for reimbursement of burial expenses. This change now allows OVS to accept a claim submitted by a funeral home, with the applicant being a person representing the business who has decision-making authority such as a manager. OVS will no longer require the “owner” of the funeral home to be the claimant. This news was shared on our website, [www.ovs.ny.gov](http://www.ovs.ny.gov), and was announced by the Governor in a release, <https://ovs.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-signs-law-helping-families-homicide-victims-funeral-costs>.

## ***What does this change mean?***

With this change in effect, it means that OVS will no longer have to locate the owner of a funeral home to be the claimant as the “person who has paid for or incurred” the expenses. Now, a manager or some person with decision-making authority representing the funeral home can also be the claimant.

## ***What do we have to do now?***

The effective date for this change was immediate – upon the signing into law – and it applies to all claims filed on or after the date it becomes effective. The Governor signed this into law on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.

This law is now in effect, so any burial claims received from funeral homes with a filing date August 18, 2016 on, should be processed under the new changes.

On behalf of the New York State Office of Victim Services, thank you for working with us to provide the highest quality services to crime victims.

Elizabeth Cronin, Esq.  
Director