



NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE POLICY

Members of the United States Armed Forces and Military Spouses

Individuals with military training or experience in the United States Armed Forces and individuals who are spouses of active members of the United States Armed Forces are required to be licensed by the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service to engage in the practice of funeral service in North Carolina. Such individuals are eligible for licensure by completing the same education, examination, and training requirements as those required for non-military applicants. Alternatively, such individuals are eligible for meeting the requirements set forth in NCGS 93B-15.1 or Public Law No. 117-333 (to be codified in 50 U.S.C. § 4025), which are described below.

North Carolina General Statutes and federal law extend specific benefits to military applicants and their spouses. Military applicants may be eligible for economic assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the N.C. Department of Military & Veterans Affairs for expenses related to examination and licensure. For more information, please visit <https://www.va.gov/> and <https://www.milvets.nc.gov/>.

A non-resident of North Carolina shall be accorded the same rights and shall be subject to the same obligations as required of a resident licensee in North Carolina.

MILITARY-TRAINED APPLICANTS

In accordance with the provisions of NCGS 93B-15.1(a), the NC Board of Funeral Service shall issue a license to a military-trained applicant if the applicant satisfies the following conditions:

1. Has been awarded a military occupation specialty [MOS] and has done all of the following at a level that is substantially equivalent to or exceeds the requirements for licensure in funeral service, funeral directing or embalming in North Carolina:
 - a. Completed a military program of training;
 - b. Completed testing or equivalent training and experience; and
 - c. Performed in the occupational specialty
2. Has engaged in the active practice of funeral directing, funeral service, or embalming for at least two (2) of the five (5) years preceding the date of the application.
3. Has not committed any act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension or revocation of a license to practice funeral service in North Carolina at the time the act was committed and has no pending complaints.

Alternatively, in accordance with the provisions of NCGS 93B-15.1(a2), the NC Board of Funeral Service shall issue a license to a military-trained applicant if the applicant satisfies the following conditions:

1. Presents official, notarized documentation such as a U.S. Department of Defense Form 214 [DD-214] or similar substantiation attesting to the applicant's military occupational specialty certification and experience in funeral service; and
2. Passes the requisite examinations for licensure either in funeral service, funeral directing or embalming.

No later than fifteen (15) days following receipt of an application from a military-trained applicant, the NC Board of Funeral Service shall either issue a license or notify the applicant when the applicant's military training or experience fails to satisfy the Board's licensure requirements. The Board shall specify the criteria or requirements that it determined failed to meet licensure requirements and the basis for the determination.

If a military-trained applicant has a pending complaint as noted under Section 3 above, the NC Board of Funeral Service shall notify the applicant no later than fifteen (15) days following the Board's receipt of written notice of the disposition of the pending complaint.

MILITARY SPOUSES

The NC Board of Funeral Service shall issue a license to a military spouse to allow the military spouse to lawfully practice funeral service in North Carolina if, upon application, the military spouse satisfies the following conditions:

1. Holds a current license from another jurisdiction and that jurisdiction's requirements for licensure are substantially equivalent to or exceed the requirements for licensure in funeral service, funeral directing or embalming.
2. Can demonstrate competency in funeral service through methods as determined by the Board, such as having completed continuing education units or having had recent experience for at least two (2) of the five (5) years preceding the date of the application for licensure.
3. Has not committed any act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license in funeral service, funeral directing or embalming in North Carolina at the time the act was committed.
4. Is in good standing; has not been disciplined by the agency that had jurisdiction to issue the license; and has no pending complaints.

No later than fifteen (15) days following receipt of an application from a military spouse, the NC Board of Funeral Service shall either issue a license or notify the applicant when the applicant's training or experience fails to satisfy the Board's licensure requirements. The Board shall specify the criteria or requirements that it determined failed to meet licensure requirements and the basis for the determination.

If an applicant who is a military spouse has a pending complaint as noted under Section 4 above, the NC Board of Funeral Service shall notify the applicant no later than fifteen (15) days following the Board's receipt of written notice of the disposition of the pending complaint.

All relevant experience of a military service member in the discharge of official duties or, for a military spouse, all relevant experience, including full-time and part-time experience, regardless of whether in a paid or volunteer capacity, shall be credited in the calculation of years of practice in the practice of funeral service.

TEMPORARY LICENSURE

I. Temporary Practice Permit under NCGS 93B-15.1

The NC Board of Funeral Service shall issue a temporary practice permit to a military-trained applicant or military spouse licensed in another jurisdiction while the applicant/spouse is satisfying the requirements for licensure under the provisions of NCGS 93B-15.1(a) or (b). The temporary practice permit shall be issued no later than fifteen (15) days following receipt of an application if that jurisdiction has licensure standards that are substantially equivalent to the standards for licensure in North Carolina. The Board shall issue the temporary practice permit using the same information as provided by the applicant in the licensure application and remain valid until the required renewal date for that license, or until the Board issues the license. A temporary practice permit may be denied or revoked for a pending complaint after notice is provided to the military-trained applicant or military spouse as set forth under NCGS 93B-15(a1) or (b1).

The NC Board of Funeral Service recognizes that nothing in NCGS 93B-15.1 shall be construed to prohibit a military-trained applicant or military spouse from proceeding under the existing licensure requirements that the Board has established.

II. Temporary Licensure under Public Law No. 117-333 (to be codified in 50 U.S.C. § 4025)

In accordance with the provisions of Public Law No. 117-333, the NC Board of Funeral Service shall issue a temporary license to a military-trained applicant or military spouse if the applicant satisfies the following conditions:

1. Holds an active license in good standing to practice funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming that was issued in another jurisdiction;
2. Has actively practiced funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming for the two years immediately preceding relocation to North Carolina pursuant to military orders;
3. Provides to the Board a copy of military orders requiring relocation to North Carolina for military service;
4. Remains in good standing with —

(A) the licensing authority that issued the applicant's license in the other jurisdiction; and

(B) every other licensing authority that has issued to the applicant a license to practice funeral service, funeral directing or embalming; and

5. Submits to the authority of the NC Board of Funeral Service for the purposes of standards of practice, discipline, and fulfillment of any continuing education requirements.

It is important to note that licenses issued pursuant to Public Law No. 117-333 only are valid for the duration of the military orders requiring relocation in North Carolina and so long as licensure issued by other licensing authorities remain in good standing.

WAIVER OF APPLICATION FEES

The NC Board of Funeral Service shall not charge a military-trained applicant or a military spouse an initial application fee for a license or permit. Nothing in NCGS 93B-15.1 shall be construed to prohibit the NC Board of Funeral Service from charging its ordinary fee for a renewal application or prohibit a third party from charging actual costs for a service such as a background check.

