

GFDA Member Benefit: NFDA Music License Offering

Questions & Answers - Each funeral establishment must have its own license; if you own multiple locations, you must purchase a license for each one. As a GFDA member, you have access to the NFDA licensing agreement that permits you to play copyrighted music within your funeral establishment. NFDA has negotiated the lowest rate available for these licenses. The funeral profession has been targeted for audits by music license companies and if discovered without a license, the fines can be stiff: anywhere from \$750 to \$30,000. You are eligible for this benefit WHETHER OR NOT YOU ALSO BELONG TO NFDA. All payments go directly to NFDA and not to GFDA.

NFDA Music and Webcasting Licenses

NFDA Webcasting License

The music license that NFDA has offered for over 20 years covers the performance of music (live or recorded) that is played at any funeral service, whether at the funeral home or at another facility as long as it is performed in connection with some type of funeral or memorial service or ceremony.

While the music license covers performance, a different license is required for a funeral home to broadcast musical performances over the internet. Funeral homes that offer funeral webcasting services are violating copyright laws when they broadcast over the internet any funeral services that contain copyrighted music.

NFDA has finalized agreements with BMI, ASCAP and SESAC to offer the only group webcasting license available to funeral homes in the market, enabling you to legally broadcast funeral services that include copyrighted music over the internet.

NFDA Music License

NFDA has expanded its music license program, offering the lowest rate available in the profession.

Because of NFDA's commitment to allied associations, it is extending an invitation to FAMIC (Funeral and Memorial Information Council) member organizations and NFDA federated state associations to participate in this offering. To qualify for the \$257 music license only fee, a participant must be a member of one of those organizations. This is the same rate that NFDA members currently receive. The license covers all three licensing organizations—BMI, SESAC and ASCAP.

FAMIC members include:

National Funeral Directors Association
International Order of the Golden Rule
National Funeral Directors & Morticians Association
Selected Independent Funeral Homes
Life Insurers Council

Casket & Funeral Supply Association
Monument Builders of North America
National Concrete Burial Vault Association
Funeral Service Foundation
International Memorialization and Supply Association

Though the music license is available to FAMIC and federated state associations, the program is administered by NFDA, and music license payments should be sent directly to NFDA. The \$257 license fee does not include membership to NFDA, which provides benefits such as The Director magazine, free marketing and public relations materials, and discounted continuing education offerings.

“This is an issue that has far-reaching effects on the funeral service profession,” says NFDA Chief Executive Officer Christine Pepper, CAE. “Now that the music licensing agencies have granted NFDA this opportunity, we can provide another option for firms in the country, particularly the smaller firm. If a significant number of funeral directors, cremationists and cemeterians respond positively, we may have even more bargaining power with the music licensing agencies, resulting in an even lower rate in the future.