



The Role of Embalmer

A typical day in the life of an Embalmer

8.45am

Arrive at the office and check my schedule for the day.

Ensure I have the correct equipment and supplies for the cases I have been set and then drive to Duxford to embalm my first case.

This was a straightforward embalming. A colleague helped me to dress the gentleman and place him in his coffin. I then styled his hair using a photograph supplied by the family. The Funeral Arranger came to check his appearance as a viewing had been booked for later in the day. When I knew that she was pleased with the outcome, I left.

12.00pm

At Cambridge office to carry out two further embalmings. One of the deceased is a Coroner's case and has had a post mortem. This took a little longer but went well and I am pleased with the outcome. The young lady has long hair so I wash, dry and straighten it. A female colleague helps me to dress her and apply her make up and then I paint her nails. She looks so much better than when she came in to our care and I hope that this will bring the family some comfort when they come to see her in our Chapel of Rest.

The second case was an elderly gentleman, whose daughter hadn't been able to see him in the nursing home before he died. It was very important to her that he was clean shaven (this is noted on my instruction sheet from the Funeral Arranger). She has also asked for a lock of his hair so I tie a small lock in a ribbon for her.

4.30pm

I tidy and clean the mortuary area.

5.00pm

Write up the day's cases as part of the coursework towards my British Institute of Embalmer's qualification.

Check in with the Funeral Manager to see what is likely to be planned for tomorrow (things can change at short notice in this job but it helps to have a bit of a plan!).

5.45pm

Home time!

*We asked our Company Embalmer about his role,
and these are his responses:*

What was your main career before you joined the Funeral Profession?

- ♦ I worked in the admin team at a supermarket before starting my career in the funeral profession in 2013

What do you like most about your job?

- ♦ The challenge of it
- ♦ Making a difference: it is good to know that what I have done can bring comfort to people

Is there anything you don't like about your job?

- ♦ Sometimes the travelling between offices can be a nuisance
- ♦ It can be a lonely job as I usually work alone

What would you consider to be the main skills required to be an Embalmer?

- ♦ Empathy
- ♦ Confidence
- ♦ The ability to work alone and on own initiative as well as part of the team
- ♦ The willingness and ability to learn
- ♦ Being comfortable in a mortuary environment
- ♦ Able to follow instructions
- ♦ Accuracy and attention to detail