DEBORAH MITCHELL
INDEPENDENT FUNERAL SERVICES

Understanding Embalming

Embalming is a careful, respectful process intended to temporarily sustain condition and appearance, so you may have the comfort of seeing your loved one and spending time together before the service. We approach every step with the utmost dignity, gentleness, and reverence, treating your loved one as we would wish our own to be treated.

It is important to share openly that embalming is an invasive procedure, and while we always apply the highest standards of care, results cannot be guaranteed. How each loved one responds varies greatly from person to person. On occasion, embalming may not be possible at all, depending on the circumstances or cause of death, and this will be determined at the discretion of the embalmer. Where this is the case, we will explain the reasons clearly and sensitively, and guide you towards the most appropriate alternatives to honour your loved one.

Even when embalming is possible, how long this gentle care maintains their condition is unpredictable—it depends on many factors, including age, health, any medication they may have been taking, and their condition at the time of passing. No one can promise exactly how long it will be effective or what the final appearance will be.

On rare occasions, minor leakage may occur from the incision sites; should this happen, we will take every care to gently and carefully resolve it for you.

For these reasons, we will keep you fully updated day by day. We will advise you honestly on how things are progressing, any changes we observe, and what this may mean for your arrangements. There will be no surprises—we will always speak to you with kindness and clarity, answer every question, and support you in making decisions that feel right for your family.

As always, the choice to proceed with embalming is entirely yours, and we will never place you under pressure. Whatever you decide, or whatever may be possible, we will care for your loved one with devotion and guide you with transparency at every step.