



# Minnesota LEMA Guidelines for Funerals



Funeral Detail	Line of Duty Death	Off-Duty Death	Retired Officer
Mourning Bands *	Yes	No	No
Lower US Flag to Half Mast *	Yes	No	No
Door Guards	Yes	Optional	Optional
Casket/Urn Guards	Yes	Optional	No
Blue Roses/Backing the Blue Line	Yes	Optional	Optional
Posting Colors at Church	Yes	Optional	Optional
Pallbearers	Yes	No	No
Ramp Guard	Yes	Optional	Optional
Squad Procession	Yes	Optional	Optional
Caisson Detail	Yes	No	No
Firing Detail	Yes	Prior Military	Prior Military
Taps	Yes	Optional	Optional
Colors Detail (Cemetery)	Yes	Optional	Optional
Casket Carry	Yes	No	No
Flag Fold (Casket) *	Yes	Prior Military Only	Prior Military Only
Folded Flag Presentation (Urn) *	Yes	Prior Military Only	Prior Military Only
Pipe Band	Yes	Single Piper	Single Piper
Officer Formations	Yes	Optional	Optional
Service Bell Toll *	Yes	Optional *	Optional *
10-7 Call	Yes	Optional	No
Caparison (Riderless) Horse	Yes	No	No
Fly Over *	Yes	No	No

The purpose of this guideline is to establish a uniform response to the most common funeral occurrences that arise in Minnesota

**Asterisk \* see below**

**Optional:** Can be done by your department Honor Guard but are not required. LEMA may assist with these details if requested and sufficient resources are available. For non-LODD, LEMA Honor Guard will work to facilitate other Honor Guards to conduct ceremonial functions.

**\*Mourning bands:** Worn statewide for all line of duty deaths from the time of the on-duty death to the end of shift the day of the burial. Departments may utilize mourning bands for other deaths if they so desire. The officer's agency in an on-duty death can authorize the mourning band be worn for 30 days after the death.

**\*Lowering US Flag to Half Mast:** A local jurisdiction may request to lower flags to half mast on their own. The Governor must be requested to have all flags in the State or on State buildings lowered to half mast. Usually this request is made through the Department of Public Safety by the commissioner.

**\*Flag Protocol:** Flag Fold & Presentation will be conducted by LEMA Honor Guard for LODD death. A pre-folded flag can be requested by non-LODD, however LEMA Honor Guard will not be involved in flag movement or presentation (unless prior military)

**\*Pipe Band:** The Minnesota Police Pipe Band will play at no charge at any line of duty funeral, pipe requests by agencies for other funerals are usually at a cost, and would be arranged by that department if they so desire.

**\*Service Bell Toll:** The Service Bell Toll is tolled once for every full year of service the officer served in total with any law enforcement agency, local, state or federal.

**\* Fly Over:** Commonly the Minnesota State Patrol will provide otherwise Metro area Air Ambulance service has provided, weather conditions permitting