



International Order of the Golden Rule

3520 Executive Center Dr, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78731

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How to Apply for Membership

Welcome! We're here to help get you started in applying for membership. If you would like personal assistance, please contact our Member Services, (800) 637-8030.

Three easy steps to complete your membership application:

- 1 Membership Application:** Please complete the attached application.
- 2 Membership Application Fee:** An application fee of \$150 is required, of which \$100 will be applied toward dues when membership is approved. Please make your check payable to OGR and include with your completed application.
- 3 Two letters of recommendation:** one by a current OGR member in good standing and the other from a local leader or clergy in your community. If you need assistance with this please contact OGR's Member Services at (800) 637-8030.

Standards of Ethical Conduct: OGR Members adhere to specified value principles that guide their business practices and conduct. They are passionate about the values of service they share as independently owned and operated businesses. Please review the Standards of Ethical Conduct that are included with the membership application and sign your commitment to these standards.

Board of Directors Approval: The Board of Directors will review your application for acceptance into membership. After you are approved, you will receive a phone call! Your membership introduction kit and membership certificate will be mailed to you.

Membership Annual Dues:

New members join at Basic Level I and may choose to become Gold Level II members after completion of one year of membership.

Basic Level I Membership allows new members to access many of the benefits offered through OGR while exploring the shared values and standards that identify a recognized Golden Rule Funeral Home at Gold Level II. Although Basic Level I members are required to remain at this level for one year, they may advance to Gold Level II as they meet the identified standards of a Golden Rule Funeral Home.

Base dues for Level I are \$595. For funeral homes with an annual case volume more than 30 there is also an assessment of \$1.75 per case in which a sale exceeds \$1,000. For example, dues for a 32-case volume funeral home would be \$651.

Benefits of Basic Level I include:

- Access to discounted products and services for 45 suppliers in the Golden Services Group
- *The Independent*[®] magazine; electronic newsletter - *The Independent Brief*; other "all member communications"
- Discounts for conference and education registration, with complimentary filing for CEUs
- Participation in the Family Contact Program on a fee basis
- Membership certificate
- Networking opportunities with more than 800 prestigious independent funeral directors nationwide
- Basic level members do not have voting rights for organizational business or leadership appointments

Questions? Please contact Member Services, (800) 637-8030



Please complete this application for membership and return to:
 OGR Membership Dept., 3520 Executive Center Drive, Suite 300, Austin, TX 78731
 For questions, contact Member Services, (800) 637-8030. Thank you!

Application for Membership

MEMBER INFORMATION

Contact Name _____

Firm Name _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Website _____

Shipping address, if different from mailing address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION *(Please check all that apply)*

Proprietorship Partnership Corporation

If your firm is incorporated, is any of the stock publicly traded? Yes No

In what year was your firm founded? _____ In what year did present management assume control? _____

OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT – MAIN FIRM

Name of Owners	Title	% of Ownership	Active in Firm?	License Number Embalmer &/or F.D.

Please list those who hold CFSP certification: _____

MULTIPLE FUNERAL HOME OPERATION(S)

All eligible affiliate firms that are owned and managed by your firm and are within 100 miles of your firm may also apply for membership. The annual dues are \$165 per affiliate. We encourage you to register your affiliate firms and receive all of the advantages of membership.

AFFILIATE #1

Affiliate Contact Name: _____

Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Website: _____ Email: _____

AFFILIATE #2

Affiliate Contact Name: _____

Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Website: _____ Email: _____

Note: If you own or operate more than two affiliate firms, please list contact information on a separate sheet.

CORRESPONDENCE

If you are a multi-location firm, would you prefer that *all* correspondence be directed to one location?

- Please use **email** as the primary source of communication with me.
- Please consolidate all mailings, **including invoices**.
- Please consolidate all mailings, **except invoices**.
- Please mail to each firm individually.

If you are a multi-location firm and choose to have mail consolidated and sent to one location, we will send the mail to the main firm. If, however, you prefer that a location *other* than the main firm receive the correspondence, please specify the firm name and location.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If someone recommended you for membership and is providing a letter of reference, please note their name:

Please tell us why you would like to join OGR and what affiliation with the Order of the Golden Rule means to you:

In the past five years have you, your funeral establishment or any employee been disciplined or charged by any local, state or federal licensing board? _____ If yes, please explain.

List any other pertinent information you wish the OGR Board of Directors to consider, relative to your application.

What methods does your firm use to promote the welfare of the funeral profession and the public you serve?

Do you make price concessions for needy families, or attempt to offer low-cost options, when the family is financially unable to afford a full-service funeral within your pricing structure? _____ Yes _____ No

VOLUME

Please indicate the number of cases in which the sale exceeded \$1,000 (USD) for the past fiscal year, not including cash advances. Include affiliate firms registering for membership in the volume. _____

YOUR GSG ACCOUNT

Our **Golden Services Group (GSG) supplier network** makes available a range of products and services. To establish your account, please provide the following information:

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or made an assignment for the benefit of creditors? Yes No

Please list the three largest suppliers from whom you purchase funeral products for use or resale. OGR may use this information to make a credit inquiry.

Supplier	Address	Phone

Where do you maintain your business bank accounts?

Bank	Address	Phone

Our Standards of Ethical Conduct are a pledge of members' ethics and professionalism in their interactions with families. Please read carefully and sign your agreement indicated below.

We believe in the validity and the application of the Golden Rule and pledge our efforts to the pursuit of this standard in all our personal and professional relationships.

- 1 We pledge ourselves to attend to the preparations, care and disposition of deceased human bodies with compassion and understanding, having due regards and respect for the reverent care of the human body, to those bereaved, and the overall spiritual dignity of man.
- 2 We pledge ourselves to serve any deserving family in time of need, regardless of monetary consideration.
- 3 We will observe the laws governing the practice of funeral directing and abide by the codes of ethics of our professional associations, to the end that funeral service and this firm shall merit and receive the confidence of the public.
- 4 We will adhere to high standards of character, integrity and responsibility; we will make no false representations; we will be truthful in our dealings with the public and within the profession.
- 5 We pledge to respect all faiths, creeds and customs, and to be responsive to the needs of those we are called upon to serve.
- 6 We acknowledge our fiduciary relationship to the families that we serve and pledge to hold their confidences inviolate.
- 7 Our charges, which are commensurate with services rendered, are based on our known costs of operation and shall be set forth in such a manner that the public may know what is included in such charges.
- 8 At the time that funeral arrangements are made, we will furnish each family with a complete and clear explanation of the charges for the services provided and merchandise selected, together with an itemization of monies to be advanced as an accommodation to the family and the agreed-upon method for the payment of the account.
- 9 We will maintain and provide to the public complete facilities and equipment, including a highly competent and well-qualified staff.
- 10 We recognize the fact that funeral services is a practice affecting the public health, safety and welfare; funeral directors are called upon to serve their fellow man during one of the most trying periods human beings can experience. We pledge ourselves to the pursuit of our continuing education to the end that those who look to us may be well served.
- 11 We will provide the public with full information pertaining to all aspects of funeral service, and we will cooperate with all others with whom we share caretaking responsibilities as we develop facts, research and knowledge, which will better enable us to meet the needs of those who mourn.

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

I (we) certify that all statements contained in this application are true and further agree that any knowingly false statements shall be grounds for rejection of any membership upon discovery. I (we) hereby agree to abide by the Golden Rule Standards of Ethical Conduct.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____