



WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

THE RIDGEWAY LONDON NW7 1RN

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LEA:LSA March 30, 1994

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Dear Brothers:

It has come to our attention that when a burial takes place in a Church of England cemetery (so-called "consecrated ground") the parish clergyman has a legal duty to conduct the Church's burial service unless the appropriate statutory notice is served in advance. On occasion, when the notice has not been given, a clergyman has insisted on carrying out this duty, even though his services are not wanted by the bereaved relatives.

Accordingly, if for some reason the burial of one of Jehovah's Witnesses has to take place in "consecrated ground" you may wish to suggest that the relatives remind the funeral director or person responsible of the need to issue such a notice. The law provides that anyone authorised by the person responsible may then conduct a "Christian and orderly religious service."

We have reproduced the relevant sections of the legislation for your information, but we emphasise that this law ONLY applies to burials in CONSECRATED GROUND, and not to other cemeteries. Should any problems arise in this respect, please contact the Society's Legal Desk.

We trust that this will be helpful and we wish you Jehovah's blessing as you shepherd those among his people who may have lost relatives in death. Of course, we join with you in looking forward to the time when "all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out" (John 5:28, 29). Please be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

Watch Tower B. & J. Society
OF BRITAIN