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**California Department of Consumer Affairs:
Cemetery Funeral Bureau Revokes AAA Cremation
Services' Funeral Establishment License.**

SACRAMENTO, Calif., April 5 /PRNewswire/ --

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) has revoked the funeral establishment license of Ray Byrne, owner of AAA Cremation Services in San Bruno, as part of a stipulated settlement reached with Byrne. Under the terms of the settlement, Byrne agreed to the revocation of his existing funeral establishment license for the San Bruno facility and to surrender his expired cremated remains disposer registration. The decision and order become effective on April 23, 2000.

Last month, DCA's Cemetery and Funeral Bureau requested the denial of Byrne's recent applications for funeral director, crematory, and funeral establishment licensure for a second facility he proposed to open in San Jose. As part of the stipulated settlement, Byrne has also agreed to withdraw all of his applications for licensure for the proposed new San Jose facility. The agreement stipulates that if Byrne reapplies for any license with the bureau, he will be required to pay \$31,394 to the bureau for costs incurred in investigating and prosecuting this case.

Today's settlement stems from the bureau's January accusation against Byrne for egregious violations at the San Bruno facility, which were uncovered in September 1999 during several DCA inspections. The accusation charged Byrne with gross negligence, gross incompetence, unprofessional conduct and other violations. Byrne admitted most of the charges contained in the accusation,

which included:

-- Keeping the San Bruno facility in extremely unsanitary condition and

leaving the facility unlocked and unsecured;

-- Failing to refrigerate multiple unembalmed decedents;

-- Transporting an unembalmed body in an advanced state of decomposition

by commercial airplane in a nonsealing casket; and

-- Keeping the cremated remains of 19 individuals in the trunk of his

private vehicle, parked in front of his residence.

-- As a result of the settlement, a scheduled March 27 hearing on the

accusation was cancelled.

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