

## CHAPTER 93

AN ACT concerning the disruption of funerals and supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

**BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. The Legislature finds and declares:
  - a. Families have a substantial interest in attending funeral services for their loved ones;
  - b. The interests of families in privately and peacefully mourning the loss of their relatives are violated when funerals are targeted for disruption, picketing and other demonstrations;
  - c. Such disruption causes emotional disturbance and distress to grieving families; and
  - d. It is in the interest of the State of New Jersey to protect families' privacy immediately prior to, during and after a funeral service.

C.2C:33-8.1 Definitions relative to disruption of funerals, violations, disorderly persons offense.

2. a. As used in this act:

“funeral” means the ceremonies, processions and memorial services held in connection with the burial or cremation of the dead; and

“demonstration” includes the following:

  - (1) any picketing or similar conduct,
  - (2) any oration, speech, use of sound amplification equipment or device, or similar conduct that is not part of a funeral,
  - (3) the display of any placard, banner, flag, or similar device, unless such a display is part of a funeral, or
  - (4) the distribution of any handbill, pamphlet, leaflet, or other written or printed matter other than a program distributed as part of a funeral.
- b. A person is guilty of disrupting a funeral if, during the period beginning one hour prior to the scheduled commencement of a funeral, and until one hour following the actual completion of the funeral, with the purpose of causing inconvenience, annoyance or alarm to the funeral or its participants, or of recklessly creating the risk thereof, the person knowingly:
  - (1) obstructs, hinders, impedes or blocks another person's entry to or exit from the funeral, the funeral procession, the funeral home, church, synagogue, temple or other place of public worship or other location at which a funeral takes place as part of demonstration activities, or
  - (2) engages in demonstration activities within 500 feet of the funeral, the funeral procession, the funeral home, church, synagogue, temple or other place of public worship or other location at which a funeral takes place and makes or assists in the making of noise, diversions, or threatening gestures, or engages in any other disruptive conduct, that disrupts or tends to disrupt the peace or good order of the funeral.
- c. Disrupting a funeral is a disorderly persons offense.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved August 21, 2006.