Author name: Anonymous

Date of submission: Thursday, 15 April 2021

Submission: Just a simple request. When I arranged a funeral the funeral director arranged for the placement of the death and funeral notices in the newspapers. I was surprised to see that the most prominent features of each advertisement were the address and contact details of the funeral director, yet the funeral was held away from their offices. Thus the information that they added was entirely superfluous.

Would it be possible to regulate the placement of funeral and death notices, placed by funeral directors, in such a way that the funeral directors were obliged to get formal agreement to the size and placement of the part of the advertisement that promotes the funeral director?

e.g. a mandatory question to be answered by the bereaved such as "What proportion of every public notice do you want allocated to the promotion of the funeral director?"

My preferred answer at the time would have been "ZERO PERCENT".