

Georgia State Board of Funeral Service

Board Meeting

December 13, 2011

A meeting of the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service was held on December 13, 2011 at the Professional Licensing Boards office in Macon, GA. Chairman Terry Daviston called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

A quorum was established with members present being: Terry Daviston, Chair; Draper Watson, Vice Chair; Bryant Hightower, Thelon Hamby, and Nancy Kennedy. David Roach and Lauren McDonald participated via video conference from the Office of the Attorney General in Atlanta.

Others present were as follows: Steve Lindsey, Executive Director, and Reagan Dean, Assistant Attorney General, via video conference.

Executive Session:

Thelon Hamby moved to enter into Executive Session to deliberate on applications, complaints, and investigations, as authorized by O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2 (k) and 43-1-19 (h). Draper Watson seconded the motion. The motion was carried by Terry Daviston, Draper Watson; Bryant Hightower, Nancy Kennedy, David Roach, Lauren McDonald, and Thelon Hamby. The Board concluded Executive Session in order to vote on the matters discussed and to continue with the public session.

Approval of Minutes:

Nancy Kennedy moved, Draper Watson seconded, and the Board voted to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2011 meeting.

Applications:

Thelon Hamby moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted to ratify the licenses presented that were issued since the November 8, 2011 meeting.

Draper Watson moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted to approve Mark Thomas Ritter as Funeral Director in Full & Continuous Charge of R.T. Patterson Funeral Home and Cremation Service and as Funeral Director in Full & Continuous Charge of National Cremation Society Crematory, both facilities in Lilburn, GA.

Draper Watson moved, Thelon Hamby seconded, and the Board voted to approve Ralph Eugene Johnson as Funeral Director in Full & Continuous Charge of Sunset Funeral Home in Kingsland, GA.

Draper Watson moved, Thelon Hamby seconded, and the Board voted to approve the reinstatement of the following establishment licenses by consent agreements, signed by the licensees and accepted by the Board during the meeting. The consent agreements assess a fine for \$500 per month for five months of unlicensed practice, which is divided between the establishment licenses and the licenses of the respective Funeral Directors in Full & Continuous Charge, and place the licenses of the establishments and the Funeral Directors in Full & Continuous Charge on probation for a period of two years, with public reprimands:

May-Smith Funeral Directors, FEST000015, Ernest K. May, FDFCC

R A Ingram Funeral Home and Crematory, FEST000194, Robert Dennis Ingram, Jr., FDFCC

Willis Funeral Services Inc, FEST001668, George Willis, Jr, FDFCC

Black & Son Funeral Home, FEST000052, John Henry Black, Jr, FDFCC

Draper Watson moved, Thelon Hamby seconded, and the Board voted to approve the reinstatement of the establishment license of Donald Trimble Mortuary, Inc., FEST001091, by consent agreement, signed by the licensees and accepted by the Board during the meeting. The consent agreements place the following conditions on the licenses of the establishment and on the license of Chedonna M. Trimble, FDFCC:

The establishment license is placed on probation until August 18, 2014, and a fine of \$2500.00 is assessed. The consent agreement constitutes a public reprimand.

The license of Chedonna M. Trimble, FDFCC, is placed on probation for two years, and a fine of \$2500.00 is assessed. The consent agreement constitutes a public reprimand.

Bryant Hightower moved, Draper Watson seconded, and the Board voted to reinstate the establishment license of Willie A Watkins Funeral Home Inc, FEST001664, by consent agreement, signed by the licensee and accepted by the Board during the meeting. Thelon Hamby voted against the motion.

The consent agreement places the establishment license on probation for two years and assesses a fine of \$2500.00. The consent agreement constitutes a public reprimand.

Draper Watson moved, Thelon Hamby seconded, and the Board voted to uphold its previous decision to deny the application for licensure by reciprocity or endorsement of Wilhelmina Sims.

Draper Watson moved, Thelon Hamby seconded, and the Board voted to approve the application for licensure by reciprocity for Noah Peterson.

Complaints:

Thelon Hamby moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted to ratify the acceptance of the following Orders Accepting Fine Monies for inspection violations:

Bowen-Donaldson Home For Funerals Inc.	Tifton	Wall certificates and current renewal license of establishment	\$50
Smith Funeral Home	Blackshear	Caskets meet pricing info requirement	\$200
Blankumsee, Thomas & Wright Funeral Services (BTW)	Quitman	Eight Adult Caskets in display room	\$100
Harris Ward & Webb Ellison FH LLC	Morrow	Funeral Home open for inspection. No one available to meet inspector	
			\$500
Welch & Brinkley	Waycross	Unsanitary Conditions	\$100
Pope Dickson & Son Funeral Home	Jonesboro	Establishment in clean, sound safe and acceptable repair condition	\$200
Litman Funeral Home	Pearson	Clean and acceptable establishment, Caskets meet pricing info requirement, Seating Capacity (30) One operable hearse	\$600

Draper Watson moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted to ratify the acceptance of the following Cease & Desist Orders for unlicensed practice:

Hart's Mortuary

Harts Mortuary at the
Cupola

Black & Son Funeral
Home

Willis Funeral
Services Inc.

Donald Trimble
Mortuary Inc.

Sanford L. Carter Jr.

Maultsby-Harris FH

Thomas Elvin Dunn Jr.

The Board reviewed a written request from the Office of the District Attorney, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit. Thelon Hamby moved, Draper Watson seconded, and the Board voted to refer the letter to the Attorney General's Office for further review and correspondence.

Continuing Education:

Thelon Hamby moved, Nancy Kennedy seconded, the Board voted to accept the committee recommendations on the following continuing education courses:

Program Provider/Sponsor	Course Title	HRS Requested	HRS Approved
NFDA	2012 CANA & NFDA Crematorium Symposium	10	10
NFDA	Certified Pre-Planning Consultant Correspondence Course	16	16
NFDA	Demystifying Succession Planning for the Small Business Owner	2	2
NFDA	Upping Your Game	2	2
NFDA	Smart Phones, Smarter Business	1	1
NFDA	Advertising Strategy in a Challenging Economy	1	1
GFDA	Expo2012	6	6
SCFDA	Mid-Winter Conference & Expo	6.5	6.5

Other Business:

Thelon Hamby moved, Draper Watson seconded, and the Board voted to approve the following requests for 90-day grace periods to operate with licensed funeral directors while the establishments take action to secure the services of a new Funeral Director in Full & Continuous Charge:

Bridges Funeral Home, Inc., Athens, GA

Mason & Ward Funeral Home, Gainesville, GA

The Board reviewed a letter from Edward J. Soles, FDFCC of Lincoln Funeral Home and Chapel, Inc., FEST001605, Decatur, GA. Mr. Soles advised the Board that he will no longer be FDFCC of the establishment. The Board directed staff to correspond with the establishment to advise that a grace period must be requested, or an application for a new FDFCC must be received by the next meeting.

Chairman Terry Daviston appointed David Roach, Bryant Hightower, and Thelon Hamby to serve on a legislation committee in anticipation of the upcoming session of the GA Legislature.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

Minutes were approved at the January 10, 2012 meeting.