

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Board Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2023
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217

Members Present:

- Felicia Wimberly, President
- Tommy Davis
- Joe Westbury
- Bryant Hightower
- Shanna Jackson Sheats
- Bradley Anderson

Others Present:

- Brad Coman, Executive Director
- Melanie Foster, Licensing Supervisor *
- Kristin Mitchell, Board Support Specialist
- Karen Coates, Licensing Analyst
- Bryon Thernes, Assistant Attorney General *

Members Absent:

- Nancy Kennedy

* *via teleconference*

Note: Visitors are excused during Executive Session unless scheduled for a personal appearance.

Felicia Wimberly, President noted that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m., and declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act, O.C.G.A. §§50-14-1 et seq.

OPEN SESSION

The Board welcomed new board members, Bradley Anderson, and Shanna Jackson Sheats, who were recently appointed to the Board by Governor Kemp to replace W.T. Edmondson and Jake Futch. The Board also expressed their sincere appreciation for W.T. Edmondson and Jake Futch and their service as members of the Board.

Agenda

Joe Westbury moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted to approve the May 9, 2023, agenda.

Minutes

Joe Westbury moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the Board voted to approve the April 11, 2023, Open Session minutes and Executive Session minutes.

Ratification List

Licenses Issued 4/6/2023 through 5/3/2023 (Total – 18): Joe Westbury moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the Board voted to ratify the licenses issued between meetings by application and reinstatement in accordance with Board Rules and Policies.

License #	Licensee	License #	Licensee
EMB005437	Kadijah Laval McDaniel	FEST002119	International Mortuary & Cremations L.L.C.
EMB005438	Michael Alexander Smith	FSA007012	Riley Fox Thompson
EMB005439	Glyndon Lee Music	FSA007013	Alphonso Gregory White
EMB005440	Rodrigo Lopez	FSA007014	Timothy Dustin Rowell
FD005838	Kadijah Laval McDaniel	FSA007015	Myia Sierra Beaver
FD005839	Michael Alexander Smith	FSA007016	Chrystal-Karen Jones
FD005840	Glyndon Lee Music	FSA007017	Mariel Rene Treubig
FD005841	Rodrigo Lopez	FSA007018	Yasmin Lakeda Doss
FEST002118	Collins Family Mortuary LLC	FSA007019	Brittany Nicole Wiggins

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
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Rules Hearing:

Felicia Wimberly called the rule adoption hearing to order at 10:07 a.m. and noted that the hearing was being recorded. Executive Director, Brad Coman noted that no written comments regarding the proposed rules had been received and there were no visitors present who wished to offer comments.

BOARD RULE CHAPTER 250-6 ESTABLISHMENT/CREMATORY LICENSURE AND REGULATIONS

The Board believes it is necessary to amend Rules 250-6-.06 and 250-6-.07 to set requirements for closing a Funeral Establishment or Crematory and reiterate the statutory requirement that the Board be notified 15 days prior to the proposed change. The rules will require that Funeral Establishments and Crematories pass an inspection of the establishment prior to its closure and sets the general requirements for the closing inspection. The Board has spent considerable time observing outcomes that commonly result from hastily or carelessly closed Funeral Establishments and Crematories. The Board has consulted with the Secretary of State's Office regarding the importance of determining the status and ownership of preneed contracts upon the discontinuation of the business who sold the preneed contract, and was responsible for investing the funds appropriately. Ascertaining the preneed contract status at the time a facility closes will likely prevent defaulted preneed contracts. Notifications of facility closure to the County Coroner/Medical Examiner will alert them to the potential need to collect any unclaimed cremains, and notification to the Vital Records registrar is important in the event there are outstanding death certificates. Confirmation that all biohazards, and any items detrimental to the public or the environment, have been removed, clearly furthers the Board's exercise of its health powers. The Board has considered multiple variations of these proposed rules and has determined this to be the most succinct wording while adhering to requirements in the statute.

Bryant Hightower moved that the formulation and adoption of these rules does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rules cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of the applicable laws as required by O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4. Tommy Davis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Tommy Davis moved to adopt amendments to Rules 250-6-.06 and 250-6-.07. Joe Westbury seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chapter 250-6 Establishment/Crematory Licensure and Regulations

Rule 250-6-.06 Funeral Establishment Inspections; Fines

- (1) A representative of the Board shall regularly inspect establishments between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, with the exception of State government-mandated holidays. Although the funeral director in full and continuous charge need not be present for the inspections, the establishment must be available during these hours for inspection. Upon finding a funeral establishment unavailable during an inspection attempt, the Board representative shall contact the establishment at the telephone number of record with the Board, or an alternative telephone number conspicuously posted at the establishment. If the establishment is not made available for an inspection by an establishment employee within sixty (60) minutes of the telephone contact, or if telephone contact is unsuccessful, the Board representative shall issue a written warning notifying that an inspection attempt was made. Any funeral establishment not inspected during a calendar year may have the establishment license suspended, revoked, or put on probation, or fines may be imposed by the Board.

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Board Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2023
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217

- (2) Any violation under this section shall be deemed a violation of minimum standards and threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public. A funeral establishment licensed by the Board shall be required to pay a fine to the Board for each violation of this section. At the time of inspection, a citation shall be issued by an inspector or representative of the Board which shall list each violation. Following the issuance of the citation, the licensee shall either remit the amount of the fine to the Board or submit a written request for an appearance before the Board. A request for an appearance before the Board must be received by the Board within thirty (30) days after issuance of the citation. Failure to either pay the fine or request an appearance before the Board within thirty (30) days from the issuance of the citation shall cause further disciplinary proceedings to be instituted against the licensee. The requirements for inspections and the fines for violations under this section are as follows:
- (a) all outside openings must be screened where left open for ventilation. The fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$50.00.
 - (b) all embalming rooms shall be equipped with the following:
 - 1. hot and cold running water; the fine for a violation under this subsection shall be \$200.00;
 - 2. non-absorbent sanitary floor and walls; the fine for a violation under this subsection shall be \$200.00;
 - 3. permanently installed ventilation; the fine for a violation under this subsection shall be \$200.00;
 - 4. a non-absorbent preparation table; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$200.00;
 - 5. preparation table equipped with receptacle and a non-porous sanitary cover or dedicated drain directly connecting into a sewerage or septic tank; the fine for a violation under this subsection shall be \$200.00;
 - (c) each embalming room shall be equipped with a sink for disinfecting of hands and a separate sink or other Board-approved method for disinfecting of instruments. The fine for a violation under this subsection shall be \$50.00;
 - (d) Each embalming room, including all instruments and tables, shall be kept in a sanitary and clean condition at all times. The fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$200.00;
 - (e) Each embalming room shall contain instruments and supplies for the preparation and embalming of dead bodies. Instruments and equipment must consist of the following:
 - 1. at least one scalpel; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$50.00;
 - 2. at least two aneurysm needles; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$50.00;
 - 3. at least two cannulas; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$50.00;
 - 4. embalming machine, or gravity bottle or bulb or hand pump; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$50.00;
 - 5. 24 bottles arterial fluid and 24 bottles cavity fluid; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$50.00;
 - 6. suture; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$50.00;
 - 7. 1 suture needle; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$50.00;
 - 8. trocar; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$50.00;
 - 9. hydro aspirator or electric aspirator; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$50.00; and
 - 10. a permanently installed back flow preventer for the hydro aspirator; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$50.00.
 - (f) The embalming room of an establishment shall be used only for the purpose of embalming of dead human bodies. The fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$200.00;

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Board Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2023
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217

- (g) An establishment must maintain on the premises a display room containing actual adult caskets, or models, mockups, or sections of caskets if all such caskets are available and in stock for purchase at the establishment or can be delivered within twenty-four (24) hours. Each funeral establishment shall maintain on the premises at each of its locations an adequate stock of funeral caskets which shall not be less than eight (8) and which shall meet other criteria as necessary to protect the public; The fine for a violation under this subsection shall be \$100.00 per casket short of the minimum;
- (h) The establishment shall have a room with adequate seating for a minimum of thirty (30) people in which funeral services may be conducted. The fine for a violation under this subsection shall be \$100.00;
- (i) One (1) operable motor hearse or combination hearse/ambulance with current Georgia registration for the transportation of casketed human remains must be maintained at each establishment. The fine for a violation under this subsection shall be \$100.00;
- (j) One (1) church truck. The fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$50.00;
- (k) A funeral establishment shall not be located in the same facility as public cafes, restaurants or any place where food is prepared and sold for public consumption. The fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$500.00;
- (l) A funeral establishment whose funeral director resides in the funeral establishment in order to satisfy the requirements of funeral director in full and continuous charge must include in his or her living quarters furnished sleeping quarters, cooking, refrigerating, and bathing facilities. The fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$200.00;
- (m) An establishment must have at least one sanitary rest room facility for public use. The fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$200.00;
- (n) A new establishment must submit proof of having met zoning requirements and public health standards of its local municipalities;
- (o) An establishment must be maintained in a state of clean, sound, safe, and acceptable repair and condition at all times;
- (p) A funeral home shall have a card or brochure in each casket stating the price of the casket. When the client has decided on the type of service desired, the funeral director must provide, at the time the arrangements are completed and prior to the time of rendering the service or providing the merchandise, a written statement that has been signed and certified by a licensed funeral director showing:
 - 1. the price of the service that the person or persons has selected and what is included therein;
 - 2. the price of each of the supplemental items of service and merchandise requested; and
 - 3. the amount involved for each of the items for which the funeral home will advance monies as an accommodation to the family.
 - 4. The fine for failure to comply fully with the requirements of this subsection shall be \$200.00.
- (q) A current license for the establishment, embalmer, funeral director and any apprentices must be conspicuously displayed in the establishment. The Funeral Director in Full and Continuous Charge for each funeral establishment and crematory establishment shall conspicuously display his/her name and current active license in all designated arrangement offices. The fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$100.00.
- (r) For purposes of identification of the body or remains of a deceased person for tagging purposes as required by OCGA 43-18-8, tags or labels must be attached to the deceased human body in the funeral establishment at the time the body is placed in the casket or shipping container, or

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Board Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2023
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217

prior to leaving the funeral establishment to go to the crematory. The fine for failure to comply fully with the requirements of this subsection shall be \$100 per occurrence; and

- (s) The Board may issue a Cease and Desist order and, at the Board's discretion, a monetary penalty for unsanitary conditions.

(3) The Board shall require funeral establishments to pass an inspection of the establishment prior to the closure of an establishment. The Board shall be notified of the establishment's intent to close fifteen (15) days prior to the intended closure. The inspection shall verify:

- (a) the status of any preneed contracts;
- (b) that cremains/remains, biohazards, and any items detrimental to the public or the environment have been removed from the establishment;
- (c) that all signs and indications of the establishment have been removed;
- (d) that the establishment has notified their local County Coroner/Medical Examiner and Vital Records registrar that establishment intends to close;
- (e) that all death certificates and SSA-721 forms have been filed; and
- (f) that all known personal property of all deceased have been returned to the family or individual(s) authorized to direct disposition.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-18-2, 43-18-10, 43-18-23, 43-18-46, 43-18-70, 43-18-71, 43-18-75, and 43-18-76.

Rule 250-6-.07 Crematory Inspections. Amended

- (1) A representative of the Board shall regularly inspect crematories no less frequently than annually between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. The funeral director in full and continuous charge need not be present for the inspection, but the crematory must be open during these hours for inspection. Requirements of inspections are as follows:
 - (a) A room with seating for a minimum of thirty (30) people in which funeral services may be conducted; the fine for a violation under this subsection shall be \$100.00;
 - (b) A display room containing an adequate supply of urns; the fine for a violation under this subsection shall be \$50.00;
 - (c) One (1) operable motor hearse with current Georgia registration for the transportation of human remains which must be either owned or leased by said firm; the fine for a violation under this subsection shall be \$100.00;
 - (d) At least one (1) operable retort for cremation; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$200.00;
 - (e) At least one (1) operable processing station for grinding of cremated remains; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$200.00;
 - (f) At least one (1) church truck; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$50.00;
 - (g) A current license for the crematory and funeral director, which must be conspicuously displayed; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$100.00;
 - (h) The provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), and (f) of this Rule shall not apply to crematories which provide cremation services only to other funeral establishments; and
 - (i) The Funeral Director in Full and Continuous Charge for each crematory shall conspicuously display their name and valid license in all designated arrangement rooms; the fine for a violation of this subsection shall be \$100.00.
- (2) A representative of the Board shall be authorized to obtain information on the retort used by the establishment for cremations. The information shall include, but not be limited to:
 - (a) Make and model of the retort;
 - (b) Manufacturer's name;

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Board Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2023
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217

- (c) Year installed;
 - (d) Date of most recent manufacturer's inspection;
 - (e) Copy of most recent inspection report from manufacturer; and
 - (f) Documentation regarding necessary repairs to the retort.
- (3) The Board shall require crematories to have annual inspections of the retort by the manufacturer or other authorized crematory repair company to ensure proper operations. The Funeral Director in Full and Continuous Charge shall notify the Board within 5 (five) days of the inspection of a less than satisfactory report by presenting the Board with a copy of the inspection report. The Board shall require crematories to make necessary repairs to the retort immediately, not to exceed thirty (30) days without approval by the Board. Any crematory that does not make the necessary repairs noted on the manufacturer's inspection within the time allowed by the Board shall be subject to immediate suspension of licensure until the Board is satisfied that proper repairs have been made.
- (4) The Board shall require the Funeral Director in Full and Continuous Charge to be certified as crematory operator from a course approved by the Board.
- (5) The Board shall require crematories to pass an inspection of the crematory prior to the closure of the crematory. The Board shall be notified of the crematory's intent to close fifteen (15) days prior to the intended closure. The inspection shall verify:
- (a) the status of any preneed contracts;
 - (b) that cremains/remains, biohazards, and any items detrimental to the public or the environment have been removed from the crematory;
 - (c) that all signs and indications of the crematory have been removed;
 - (d) that the crematory has notified their local County Coroner/Medical Examiner and Vital Records registrar that crematory intends to close;
 - (e) that all death certificates and SSA-721 forms have been filed; and
 - (f) that all known personal property of all deceased have been returned to the family or individual(s) authorized to direct disposition.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-18-2, 43-18-10, 43-18-23, 43-18-46, 43-18-71, 43-18-72, 43-18-75, and 43-18-76.

The rules adoption hearing was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Joe Westbury moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 10:12 a.m. in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19(h) and 43-18, for the purpose of conducting applicant interviews, discussing, and reviewing applications and complaints, and to hear the Attorney General's report.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Felicia Wimberly, President, declared the meeting to be "open" pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act, O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-1 et seq., at 3:38 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

Joe Westbury moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the motion was carried by the Board to ratify the following recommendations made during the Executive Session:

Appointments

Appearance # 3087154 – Wright Memorial Mortuary. – Change of FDFCC from Vashi Ayers to LaMont Smalls – Approved.

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Board Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2023
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217

Appearance # 3072814 – C.F.H.A.C.A.M.M.P. – Change of FDFCC – Approved, pending reinstatement of FDFCC candidate’s individual licenses, with a public Consent Order to include a fine of \$8,000- and two-years’ probation for unlicensed practice.

Appearance # 3024089 – S.S.F.H. – Reinstatement of Funeral Establishment – No Show – Approve with public Consent Orders for both the facility and FDFCC, to each include a \$2,500 fine and two years’ probation for unlicensed practice.

Appearance # 3082739 – Davenport-McLendon Mortuary Inc – Change of FDFCC from Nellie Ward to Terrica Shields – Approved.

Appearance # 3088016 / 3088010 – Gray Memorial Chapel and Crematory – Change of FDFCC for Funeral Home and Crematory from Matthew Jarratt to Henry Chance – Approved.

Appearance # 3088788 – Gamble Funeral Service – New Establishment with Blair Carson as FDFCC – Approved.

Appearance # 3081055 – Burke and Campbell Funeral Home – New Establishment with Timothy Watkins as FDFCC – Approved.

Appearance # 3085136 / 3085125 – Bellamy Funeral Home – Change of Name and Change of FDFCC from Shelly Palmer to Jack Stroud Jr. – Approved.

Appearance # 3087507 – C.A.C.F.O. – New Establishment – Approved with a Letter of Concern for failure to disclose arrest history.

Appearance # 3090213 / 3090215 – Cremation Society of the South-Eagle’s Landing / SouthCare Cremation and Funeral Society – Change of FDFCC for Crematory and Funeral Establishment from Jacinda Brown to Lisa Goodwin – Approved.

Appearance # 3080566 – Howard Mortuary of Wrightsville – New Establishment with David Jones as FDFCC – Approved.

Appearance # 3085837 – C.F.F.H. – Change of FDFCC – No Show – Reschedule for June 13, 2023 meeting.

Appearance # 3089871 – McNeill Funeral Home – Change of FDFCC from Kevin McNeil to Mark Jones – Approved.

Appearance # 3090217 – SouthCare Cremation and Funeral Society – Change of FDFCC from Lisa Goodwin to Melvin Childs. Sr. – Approved.

Appearance # 3091647 – Darrell E. Watkins Funeral Home – Change of FDFCC from Erma Heyliger to Tony Loftin – Approved.

Applications

Application # 3082906 – Reynolds Funeral Home – New Establishment with John Reynolds as FDFCC – Approved.

Application # 3075705 – Way-Watson Funeral Home – Change of FDFCC from Eddie Watson to John Way – Approved.

Application # 3062314 / 3062316 – R.R. – Reinstatement of Embalmer & Funeral Director – Approve with a public Consent Order to include a \$3,500 fine for violation of Rule 250-6-.09(ee) and O.C.G.A. § 43-18-71.

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Board Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2023
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217

Application # 3084664 / 3084669 – J.H. – Funeral Director / Embalmer by Endorsement or Reciprocity – Table – Schedule applicant interview for June 13, 2023 meeting.

Application # 3082830 / 3072980 – Hannah Alyss Noe – Funeral Director / Embalmer by Reciprocity – Approved.

Application # 3078652 – Ulysses Jontae Houston – Funeral Service Apprentice – Approved.

Application # 3063684 / 3063685 – Reshanta Renee Nichols – Funeral Director / Embalmer by Endorsement – Approved.

Application # 3088915 – T.K. – Funeral Service Apprentice – Approved with a public Consent Order to include probation to run concurrent with criminal probation.

Application # 3090221 / 3090223 – C.P. – Reinstatement of Embalmer and Funeral Director – Table to June 13, 2023 meeting.

Complaints

FUN230059– Close – With Letter of Concern regarding unprofessional conduct and best practices.

FUN230094 – Close – With a Letter of Concern regarding failure to safeguard all personal properties.

FUN230105 – Close – With a Letter of Concern regarding failure to ensure that the Board is notified within 5 days of the FDFCC's separation from the establishment.

FUN230116 – Close – No violation.

FUN230134 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain a statement from FDFCC.

FUN230135 – Close – No violation / lack of information.

FUN230143 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain a statement and additional information from FDFCC and owner.

FUN23230102 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain a statement and additional information from FDFCC.

FUN230120 – Close – No jurisdiction. Refer to law enforcement and Attorney General's Office pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-18-10.

FUN230053 – Close – No jurisdiction / civil matter.

FUN230130 – Table – Schedule a Cognizant Interview. Staff to obtain additional information.

FUN230121 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain a statement from FDFCC and additional information.

FUN220136 – Table – Refer to Attorney General's Office for a public Consent Order to include a \$500 fine and two years' probation for gross or willful malpractice or gross neglect in the practice of embalming, funeral directing, or cremating.

Attorney General's Report

The Board reviewed and accepted the Attorney General's report, which included information on any cases referred for action and requests for advice. The Board made the recommendation to release the Attorney General's Memorandum of Authority for Amendments to Rules 250-6-.06 and 250-6-.07.

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Board Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2023
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217

Executive Session Other Business

Case # 2997254 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain a statement from FDFCC and additional information.

Continuing Education – Bryant Hightower moved, Joe Westbury seconded, and the motion carried by the Board to accept the Continuing Education Committee’s recommendations to approve the following continuing education courses as presented:

Provider	Course	Points
The Dodge Institute for Advanced Mortuary Studies	2023 Dodge Technical Seminar	9
SCFDA	Body Snatchers / Grave Robbing	1
SCFDA	The Modernization of the Death Registration Process in South Carolina & the Nation	1
SCFDA	CFDA General Business Session	1
SCFDA	Stories, Not Statistics: How Funeral Homes Engage & Retain High Performing Employees in a Post-Pandemic Workforce	2
GFDA	Past Presidents Breakfast	1
GFDA	Exhibits	2
GFDA	GFDA Business Meeting	1
GFDA	Stop Losing Customers	1
GFDA	How to Be Known, Trusted, and Celebrated on Facebook	1
GFDA	Funeral Services: Loss Exposure & Risk Management	1
GFDA	Keys for Crossing and Closing the Experience-Perception Gap	1.5

OTHER BUSINESS

Docketed Orders – Joe Westbury moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted to accept the docketed orders as presented:

Type	Licensee	License #	Docket #	City
OAFM	SouthCare Cremation and Funeral Society	FEST001822	2023-0353	Stockbridge
OAFM	Ward’s Funeral Home	FEST000595	2023-0392	Dawson
OAFM	MD Walker Funeral Home	FEST001585	2023-0391	Atlanta

Facility Changes of Ownership

The Board reviewed the following changes of ownership:

Facility	License #	Seller	Purchaser	Notification Date
Gamble Funeral Service, Inc	FEST001615	Edward Gamble	Kyle Nikola	4/19/2023
Bellamy Funeral Home	FEST001459	Dennis Bellamy	Charles E. Johnson	10/25/2022

90-Day Grace Period Requests

Joe Westbury moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted unanimously on the following 90-day grace period requests:

Type	Decision	License / App #	City	Expiration
Peterson’s Funeral Home	Approved	FEST002051	Griffin	8/9/2023

Requests To Lift Probation

The Board reviewed a request to lift probation for In Their Honor of Jasper Funerals and Cremations (FEST002045). Licensee has complied with all Board requirements. Joe Westbury moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the request.

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Board Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2023
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217

ABFSE COA Actions

The Board reviewed the actions taken by the American Board of Funeral Service Education’s Committee on Accreditation regarding funeral service/mortuary science education programs at their April 11-12, 2023 meeting.

FTC Update

The Board reviewed and discussed an update from the Federal Trade Commission on actions that the agency has recently taken against unlicensed third-party providers that continue to pose a risk to the general public.

Certificate of Active Supervision

The Board reviewed the certificate of active supervision, dated April 14, 2023, for Board Rule 250-6-.08, which was approved by the Governor.

Cremation Authorization Correspondence

The Board reviewed a request for input on a draft of a Cremation Authorization form. Joe Westbury moved that although the Board does not immediately notice any issues with the proposed form, the Board is unable to provide the requested business or legal advice and encouraged the questioner to consult with a private attorney for their advice. Bryant Hightower seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Application Procedure Discussion

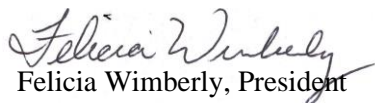
The Board discussed current application procedures regarding background checks. The Board unanimously voiced support for a statutory change giving the Board the authority to require fingerprint-based federal background checks for applicants.

Executive Director’s Report

The Board reviewed the Executive Director’s report, which provided the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications and complaints/compliance matters.

There being no further business, Felicia Wimberly, President, declared the meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m. The next meeting of the Georgia Board of Funeral Service will be held Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

Minutes recorded by: Kristin Mitchell, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Brad Coman, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: June 13, 2023.


Felicia Wimberly, President


Brad Coman, Executive Director