

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Board Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2026
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
3920 Arkwright Rd., Suite 195, Macon, Georgia 31210

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Brad Coman, Executive Director
- Melanie Foster, Licensing Supervisor *
- Kristin Mitchell, Board Support Specialist
- Robyn Henley, Licensing Analyst
- Craig Pake, Assistant Attorney General

Members Absent:

- Tommy Davis

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

Joe Westbury, President, noted that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 10:09 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

Agenda

Felicia Wimberly moved, Shanna Jackson Sheats seconded, and the Board voted to approve the March 17, 2026, meeting agenda as amended.

Minutes

Felicia Wimberly moved, Bradley Anderson seconded, and the Board voted to approve the February 10, 2026, Open Session and Executive Session meeting minutes.

Ratification List

Licenses Issued 2/5/2026 – 3/11/2026 (Total – 34): Felicia Wimberly moved, Shanna Jackson Sheats 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
FD009908	Cristal Laguerra	FSA007423	Samuel Martin Abernathy
EMB026729	Cristal Laguerra	FSA007424	David C Hurt Jr
EMB026730	Catlin Marie Vandekamp	EMB026734	Felicia E Bentley
FD009909	Catlin Marie Vandekamp	FD009913	Felicia E Bentley
FSA007419	Amber Simone Dukes	FSA007425	Heather Nicole Jenkins
FSA007420	Robin Clark	EMB026735	Julia Parker Baker
FSA007421	Jozalyn I McDaniel	FD009914	Julia Parker Baker
FSA007422	Harrison Duncan Aulds	FD009915	Lillian Elizabeth Mosher
EMB026731	Kathleen Alexandria Freeman	EMB026736	Lillian Elizabeth Mosher
FD009910	Kathleen Alexandria Freeman	EMB026737	Quamell Keshawn Pittman
FEST002188	SOUTHVIEW MORTUARY	FD009916	Quamell Keshawn Pittman
EMB026732	Brandon O. Martin	FSA007426	Sharmin Quintavious McMiller
FD009911	Brandon O. Martin	FSA007427	Deanna Michelle Verwys de Gonzalez
EMB026733	Kathryn Alyse Martin	FSA007428	Dayivion Briahna Mosteller
FD009912	Kathryn Alyse Martin	FSA007429	Kristy Ann Reynolds

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License #	Licensee	License #	Licensee
FSA007430	Marion Meadows-Freeman	EMB026738	Mailey Elizabeth McLaughlin
FSA007431	Trevon Bridges	FD009917	Mailey Elizabeth McLaughlin

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bradley Anderson moved, Shanna Jackson Sheats seconded, and the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 10:11 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, Joe Westbury, 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 4:15 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

Bradley Anderson moved, Felicia Wimberly seconded, and the motion was carried by the Board to ratify the following recommendations made during the Executive Session:

Appointments

Appearance # 4565701 – R.A.I.F.H.A.C. – Change of FDFCC – Approve with one grace period request.

Appearance # 4432284 – G.M.C.A.C. – Change of FDFCC – Approve contingent on applicant submitting Change of FDFCC application for Crematory within the next 30 days, and facility resolving outstanding disciplinary matter. Letter of Concern to FDFCC candidate for failure to disclose arrest history.

Appearance # 4514726 – Deal Funeral Operations, LLC – Change of FDFCC from Laura Moore to Michele Fiorelli. – Approve.

Appearance # 4606406 – W.F.H. – Change of FDFCC – Approve with use of second grace period and a public Consent Order to include a \$7,500 fine for operating unlicensed/without an FDFCC.

Appearance # 4582400 – Wages & Son Funeral Home – Change of FDFCC from Jeffrey Wages to Kent Stewart – Approve.

Appearance # 4586802 / 4612130 – G.H.F.C. / P.C.S. – Change of FDFCC – No show. Reschedule to next meeting.

Appearance # 4599340 – S.F.H. – Change of FDFCC – Approved pending receipt of authorization to appear on behalf of ownership.

Appearance # 4619617 – Swain Funeral Home Hazlehurst Chapel – New Establishment with Albert Murry as FDFCC – Approve.

Appearance # 4613790 – Cagle Funeral Home Inc – Change of FDFCC from James Wigington to Kenny Jacobs – Approve.

Appearance # 4222490 / 4222394 – M.F. – Denial appeal – No show. Denial upheld.

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Appearance # 4412268 / 4417655 – M.P. – Funeral Director / Embalmer by Reciprocity – Deny - State that applicant is requesting to reciprocate from has less stringent requirements than those in this state and applicant has not been licensed for a minimum of three years to qualify for endorsement.

Appearance # 4598379 – L.I.F.H. – Funeral Establishment – Approve with a public Consent Order to include a \$9,000 fine and two years' probation for unlicensed practice.

Appearance # FUN260116 – Close with a Letter of Concern for being unable to inspect.

Appearance # 4607946 – F.C.C.F.A.R.S. – Change of FDFCC – No show. Reschedule to next meeting.

Applications

Application # 4413942 / 4423760 – R.M.E. – Funeral Director / Embalmer by Endorsement – Table for applicant interview.

Application # 4572743 – Community Chapel Funeral Home of Jesup, Inc – Change of FDFCC from Ralph Johnson to Harold Stewart – Approve.

Application # 4543158 / 4543163 – Monica Crist – Funeral Director / Embalmer by Reciprocity – Approve.

Application # 4588636 / 4588634 – Matthew Burdette – Funeral Director / Embalmer by Reciprocity – Approve.

Application # 4539752 / 4624781 – Dementria Robinson – Funeral Director / Embalmer by Reciprocity – Approve.

Application # 4158720 – Coes Funeral Home, LLLP – Reinstatement of Funeral Establishment – Approve.

Application # 4583415 – P.F.M. – Change of FDFCC – Deny due to disciplinary actions against candidate's licenses including active probation.

Application # 4485696 – M.A.P.F.H. – Reinstatement of Funeral Establishment – Approve with a public Consent Order to include a \$8,500 fine and two years' probation for unlicensed practice. Shanna Jackson Sheats recused.

Appearance # 4611516 – Brannen-Kennedy Funeral Home Inc – Change of name from Brannen-Kennedy Funeral Home, Inc to Brannen Family Funeral Services, Inc – Approve.

Appearance # 4610975 – R&R Cremation Services LLC – New Crematory with John Reynolds as FDFCC – Approve.

Appearance # 4618787 / 4630575 – Cody Burns – Funeral Director / Embalmer by Reciprocity – Approve.

Appearance # 4603182 – Elliott Parham Mortuary – Change of Name / Address from Elliott Parham Mortuary to Elliott Parham Mortuary & Cremations – Approve.

Complaints

FUN260079 – Close – Matter resolved.

FUN260078 – Close – Matter resolved.

FUN260112 – Close with Letter of Concern regarding allegations of unprofessional conduct involving the operation of a hearse.

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FUN250112 – Close – Rescind previous motion as licensees are in compliance with original orders.

FUN260102 – Close – Refer to Secretary of State for investigation into potential preneed violations.

FUN260124 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain statement from employee and FDFCC and additional supporting information.

FUN260030 – Table to next meeting.

FUN260108 – Close – No violation.

FUN260105 – Close – Lack of information.

Executive Session Other Business

P.R.C. – Refer to Inspections to obtain statement and additional information.

S.W.G.C.S. – Table for update from manufacturer.

F.F.H. – Table to next meeting.

J.R.B.M. – Table to next meeting.

C.A.C.F.H. – Table to next meeting.

H.A.S.O.C – Refer to Inspections for routine inspection.

D.W. – Deny request to waive CE as the request does not demonstrate a hardship, disability, illness, or such circumstances to justify that the requirements be waived.

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.

Continuing Education – Felicia Wimberly moved, Shanna Jackson Sheats 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
NFDA	NFDA Embalming and Restorative Arts Seminar	18
NFDA	Safety, Security and Success in 2026	1
NFDA	Online Cremation Certification Program	6
NFDA	Arrangement Skills Masterclass	8
CANA	CANA's 2026 Symposium	8
CANA	CANA's Crematory Operations Certification Program	8
CANA	Crematory Operations Certification Online Program	8
CANA	Presentation without Preservation	1
CANA	Aftercare An Introduction	2
CANA	Communication Skills Fundamental	1
CANA	Complying with the FTC Funeral Rule	1
CANA	Cremation Arrangement Best Practices	2
CANA	Cremation and the Environment	2
CANA	Cremation Arrangement Phone Shoppers Your Best First Impression	1
CANA	Ethics in Funeral Service	2

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CANA	The Cremation Choice	2
CANA	The Power of Presence an Introduction	2
CANA	Three Tools for Improving Your Business	1
Colibri Healthcare	Aftercare - Extending a Helping Hand All Year Round, 2nd edition	1
Colibri Healthcare	An Understanding of Grief and the Role of the Funeral Professional	1
Colibri Healthcare	Military and Line of Duty Funeral Services	3
Colibri Healthcare	Formaldehyde Monitoring Update, 2nd Edition	2
Colibri Healthcare	Infectious Disease Control for Funeral Professionals	4
Colibri Healthcare	Modern Restorative Arts and Embalming Techniques, 2nd Edition	3
Colibri Healthcare	Aftercare - Extending a Helping Hand All Year Round, 2nd edition	1
Colibri Healthcare	An Understanding of Grief and the Role of the Funeral Professional	1
Colibri Healthcare	The Culture of Death and Funerals	1
Colibri Healthcare	Evolving Funeral Practices Modern Trends	3
Colibri Healthcare	The Funeral Rule	1
Wilbert Funeral Services	First Call, Telephone Etiquette, Lost Telephone Opportunity	1
Wilbert Funeral Services	Perception Matters Resilience in Funeral Care Professionals	1
Matthew Johnson, Johnson Law Office	The Law What Funeral Professionals Should Know	1
SCI Management - Dignity University	Back Safety	1
SCI Management - Dignity University	FTC - The Funeral Rule	2
SCI Management - Dignity University	Bloodborne Pathogen Awareness	1
SCI Management - Dignity University	Formaldehyde Awareness Training	1
SCI Management - Dignity University	Mastering Emotional Intelligence	4
SCI Management - Dignity University	Hazard Communication	1
SCI Management - Dignity University	Respiratory Protection	1
SCI Management - Dignity University	Funeral At Need Contracts Securing Payment	1
SCI Management - Dignity University	Cremation Theory	1
SCI Management - Dignity University	Complaint Resolution	1
SCI Management - Dignity University	Jewish Funeral Traditions	1
SCI Management - Dignity University	Hospice Explained	1
SCI Management - Dignity University	Finding the Right Fit	2
SCI Management - Dignity University	Resolving Customer Issues	1
The Independent Funeral Group	Respiratory Protocols – OSHA	1
The Independent Funeral Group	Crematory Safety Series #3, Safely Managing Obese Cremations	1
ICCFA	The ICCFA Experience	14

OTHER BUSINESS

Docketed Orders – Bradley Anderson moved, Shanna Jackson Sheats seconded, and the Board voted to accept the docketed orders as presented:

Type	Licensee	License/Application #	Docket #	City
OAFM	Elliott Funeral Home	FEST000126	2026-0181	Albany
OAFM	Grooms Funeral Home	FEST000150	2026-0178	Thomasville
OAFM	Southern Cremations & Funerals At Eastlawn Memorial Park	FEST002112	2026-0180	McDonough
OAFM	Divine Preservation LLC	FEST002172	2026-0177	College Park
OAFM	Bentleys & Sons Funeral Home	FEST001241	2026-0179	Barnesville
Consent Order	Alvie Coes	FD005387	2026-0147	Athens
Consent Agreement	Southview Mortuary of Sylvester	4453953	2026-0176	Sylvester

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Request for Renovations:

The Board reviewed and discussed a request for permission for a Funeral Establishment to operate out of another licensed location temporarily while renovations are being completed. Felicia Wimberly moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the request with the licensee to provide an update within 90 days.

Grace Period Request:

The Board reviewed a grace period request from Final Curtain Call Funeral & Removal Service, LLC (FEST002178). Bradley Anderson motioned, Felicia Wimberly seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the second grace period request.

Correspondence:

The Board reviewed and discussed correspondence regarding reducing licensing requirements. Bradley Anderson moved, Felicia Wimberly seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to table discussion to the next meeting.

Correspondence:

The Board reviewed and discussed correspondence regarding a group being recognized as a state association to be listed on the Board's website. Bradley Anderson moved, Felicia Wimberly seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to table discussion to the next meeting.

Legislative Discussion:

The Board discussed any updates regarding legislative session and bills that would impact the Board or the profession, as well as legislative changes that the Board feels are needed.

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, Joe Westbury, President, declared the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m. The next meeting of the Georgia Board of Funeral Service will be held Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the new Board office at 3920 Arkwright Rd. Suite 195, Macon, Georgia.

Minutes recorded by: Kristin Mitchell, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Brad Coman, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: April 14, 2026.


Joe Westbury, President


Brad Coman, Executive Director

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING CLOSING OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A 50-14-1 et seq., requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding person execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions and identifying those specified exemptions relied upon. O.C.G. A. 50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meetings in question.

Comes Thomas Davis, the Chairman identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.

1. I am the presiding officer of the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service
2. I am over the age of 18 and in other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and subject to penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On March 17, 2026, this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of members present voted to close the meeting or a portion hereof of the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting.
4. The legal authority for closure of this meeting was: O.C.G.A. 43-1-2(k).
5. The subjects discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are as follows:

Applications and other personal information submitted by the applicants, information, Favorable or unfavorable, submitted by a reference source concerning an applicant; and Deliberations of the Board with respect to an application, an examination, a complaint, an Investigation, or a disciplinary proceeding.

FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.



PRESIDING OFFICER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th

Day of March, 2026


Notary Public

My Commission Expires:



RENEA L. GRAY
Notary Public, Georgia
Houston County
My Commission Expires
June 01, 2027