

MINUTES
BOARD OF FUNERAL, CEMETERY, AND CONSUMER SERVICES
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2026 - 10:00 A.M.

A. Call to Order, Preliminary Remarks, and Roll Call

Ms. Jill Peeples – Good morning. This is Jill Peeples, Chair of the Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services. It is Thursday, January 8, 2026. It is 10 o' clock, and I will call the meeting to order and turn it over to Ms. Simon.

Ms. Ellen Simon – Thank you, ma'am. Good morning. My name is Ellen Simon. I am the Assistant Director for the Division of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services. Today is January 8, 2026, and it is approximately 10:00 a.m. This is a public meeting of the Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services. This meeting is being held by videoconference. Notice of this meeting has been duly published in the Florida Administrative Register. An agenda for this meeting has been made available to the public as well. Both the link and call in number are on the agenda, which has been made available to the public. The link and call in number as well as other information relating to this Board meeting has also been published on the Division's website. Ms. LaTonya Bryant is recording the meeting and minutes will be prepared.

As this is a videoconference of the Board, there are some items I need to draw your attention to. For one, as a general rule, please do not utilize your video camera for the meeting unless you are a Board member, Board counsel, or an authorized Division employee. If you have a matter listed on the agenda and intend to appear before the Board to represent yourself, or if you are an attorney that is representing a client, only turn your video camera option on when we have reached the agenda item that you want to be heard on or when you hear your name called. Then turn your video camera option off again as soon as your matter has been addressed by the Board.

As always, we need everyone that is on the call to place their phone or audio feed on mute, if you are not speaking. The ambient noise coming from someone's phone or audio, which is not muted, causes severe disruption to the meeting. If you are not muted, you may be muted by Division staff. As a result, you may need to call back into the meeting because that may be the only way to unmute your phone. Also, if you are using your computer or smartphone for your audio feed, please remember to speak directly into the microphone on your device. To do so otherwise negatively impacts the recording of this meeting. Just as in a live meeting, persons speaking are requested to identify themselves for the record each time they speak. Participants are respectfully reminded that the Board's Chair, Ms. Peeples, runs the meeting. Persons desiring to speak should initially ask the Chair for permission.

As a reminder to Board members, you are to refrain from commenting on facts not included within your Board packages and instead base your decision solely on the information in your Board packages, as well as testimony provided at this meeting. Additionally, ongoing investigations are private and confidential and are not to be discussed, even for the purposes of confirming there is an investigation.

Just a few words about Item T on your agenda, which is Public Comment. Public Comment is reserved for general comments by the public and not for re litigation of any matter before the Board. Please be aware that if Public Comment is used as an attempt to relitigate a matter that has been heard on this agenda, the Board will be instructed that the comment is not appropriate for Public Comment, and it should not be considered for further discussion.

As a final reminder, Board meetings are public meetings under Florida Law, and anything said via chat is subject to a public records request. This feature should only be used for technological issues you may be experiencing, and all inquiries in chat should be directed to Mary Schwantes, our Executive Director. She is monitoring the chat feature and, as necessary, will forward your inquiry to someone who can assist in resolution of the problem. I'd like to take a moment to introduce Kara Aikens. Ms. Aikens is joining us from the Office of the Attorney General and for this meeting will be the counsel for the board as Ms. Munson is out.

Ms. Kara Aikens – Thank you.

Ms. Simon – Madam Chair, at this point I will call the roll:

Jill Peeples, Chair
Andrew Clark, Vice Chair
David Chapman
Sanjena Clay
Vincent "Todd" Ferreira
Christian "Chris" Jensen
Kenneth "Ken" Jones
Janis Liotta
William "Bill" Quinn
Darrin Williams {EXCUSED}

Also noted as present:

Kara Aikens, Board Legal Advisor
Kimberly Marshall, Department Legal Counsel
Nicole Eldeb, Department Legal Counsel
LaTonya Bryant, Department Staff

Ms. Simon – Darrin Williams is excused from today's meeting. Madam Chair, we have a quorum for the business of the Board.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Simon.

B. Action on the Minutes

- (1) *October 9, 2025*
- (2) *November 6, 2025*

Ms. Simon – It would be appropriate at this time for the Board to entertain a motion.

MOTION: Ms. Sanjena Clay moved to approve the minutes for both meetings. Mr. Todd Ferreira seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Simon – Thank you.

C. Old Business

- (1) *Application(s) for Removal Service*
 - (a) *Recommended for Approval*
 - 1. *Tri-County Nursing Transportation and More, LLC d/b/a Tri-County Mortuary Removal Service, LLC (Gainesville)*

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative of this entity on the call today?

Mr. James Latson – Yes ma'am.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, sir. A new application for removal facility licensure was received on September 8, 2025. The application was incomplete when received. The Division received the required information to complete the application on November 10, 2025. A background check of the principal, Mr. James H. Latson, did not reveal any relevant criminal history. During the December 2025, Board meeting, this item was pulled from the agenda due to Board members expressed concerns regarding the proposed name of the applicant, in that it may be considered misleading because nursing services were not going to be provided by this business. Directly after the meeting, telephonic contact was made with Mr. Latson. Mr. Latson was told that the Board may not be willing to approve the application as the name of the applicant could be considered misleading to the public. Mr. Latson stated that the name was used because he was a licensed nurse, but that the applicant would not be providing nursing services. Mr. Latson indicated that he would change the name of the applicant. An email exchange occurred later that afternoon during which the Division provided the applicant with information as to how to facilitate a name change process. Information provided by Mr. Latson on December 23, 2025, included documentation that was sent to the Division of Corporations, along with a check, to facilitate the fictitious name of Tri-County Mortuary Removal

Service, "LLC". The applicant has passed a new inspection on December 15, /2025 with no deficiencies noted. The Division recommends approval without conditions.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Simon. And who is representing this entity, please?

Mr. Latson – This is James Latson, Madam Chairperson.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, sir. And Mr. Latson, if you will, if we need to speak with you, if you'll let Ms. Simon swear you in, please, sir.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Latson, please raise your right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. Latson – I do.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, sir.

Chair Peeples – Mr. Latson, if you will say your name and spell your last name for the record, please, sir.

Mr. Latson – My name is James Henry Latson. L-A-T-S-O-N is my last name.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, sir. Board members, do you have any questions for Mr. Latson? What would be the pleasure of the Board?

MOTION: Ms. Janis Liotta moved to approve the application without conditions. Mr. Ferreira seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Mr. Latson.

Mr. Latson – Thank you so much, Madam Chair.

(2) Motion for Reconsideration

(a) Request to Renew Funeral Director and Embalmer License (Criminal History)

1. Garfield, Todd Preston F042410

Ms. Simon – Is Mr. Garfield or a representative of Mr. Garfield on the call today?

Mr. Luke Grabowski – Yes. Good morning, Madam Chair. Luke Grabowski on behalf of Mr. Garfield.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, sir.

Ms. Simon – Thank you. Mr. Garfield submitted a license renewal application and payment on June 6, 2025, and answered "Yes" to the criminal history question. A deficiency letter was issued on June 10, 2025. The deficiencies were corrected as of July 2025. In February 2025, Mr. Garfield pled of nolo contendere to petit theft, a misdemeanor. In March 2009, Mr. Garfield pled nolo contendere to one (1) count of Organized Fraud under \$20,000, a felony. Both of these crimes involved theft from Florida licensed funeral establishments. Mr. Garfield's funeral director and embalmer licensure renewal application was presented to the Board in August 2025. At that time, Mr. Garfield was still on probation from the petit theft charge. The Board asked to withhold its decision of the renewal application until the October Board meeting when it was expected that Mr. Garfield would present himself to the Board with documentation providing that his probation had been terminated. The application for licensure renewal was then before the Board in October 2025. While the Applicant was unable to provide the Division with documentation of the probation termination before the Board agendas were published, the day before the Board meeting his criminal probation was terminated. The documentation evidencing the same is included within this Board package. Nonetheless, the Board was orally informed that the criminal probation had been terminated. During the October Board meeting, the Board denied Mr. Garfield's application for renewal of licensure. The pertinent Board minutes from both

the August and October Board meetings are included within this Board package. On or about November 25, 2025, Mr. Garfield submitted a Motion for Reconsideration of the Board's Decision. That motion, as well as the Board's Notice of Intent to Deny Application, is included within this Board package. Madam Chair?

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Simon. Mr. Grabowski?

Mr. Grabowski – Oh, yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning. Good morning, members of the Board. Once again, Luke Grabowski on behalf of Mr. Todd Garfield and I am joined on the call today by Mr. Garfield and his current employers, Paul and Dillon Mazzoni of Islands Cremations and Funeral Homes in Merritt Island. As Ms. Simon indicated, this is a motion for reconsideration of the Board's October 9th vote to deny this renewal application for Mr. Garfield's funeral director and embalmer license. I just want to provide a little bit of background regarding this motion in the relief sought and what has transpired in the past six (6) months since this renewal application was submitted. By way of background, Mr. Garfield has been a licensed funeral director embalmer in the State of Florida since 2007. So, for nearly eighteen (18) years, he has been a dedicated, studious, and responsible funeral director. And other than the issues we are going to discuss today, has no history of disciplinary action as a funeral director and embalmer. During his June 2025 renewal application, Mr. Garfield did self-report a relevant criminal history that was a charge, which was a misdemeanor, a first-degree misdemeanor, resulting from allegations of his current employer approximately a year prior that he misused the company credit card. Mr. Garfield thought he had addressed that issue with his employer, left that employer. These charges were filed. Adjudication of guilt was withheld. He was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$400 and change and was put on one-year probation that included various terms and conditions, all of which were satisfied and I'll discuss that shortly. During that application, the Division also noted that approximately fifteen (15) years' prior, Mr. Garfield had a similar criminal charge against him in Collier County where he was alleged to have misused a company credit card. He did enter a plea in that case of nolo contendere. He satisfied the conditions of that fee, and I think approximately two (2) years later, that came up in front of the Board and ultimately the Board approved a settlement stipulation where he was placed on probation for one year and paid a \$500 fine, which was satisfied.

Now this originally came before the Board at the August 2025 Board meeting. At that meeting, Mr. Garfield was present. His employers were present. They both offered testimony in support of this application, and there were significant deliberations by the Board. I think for good reason. There was concern regarding these charges, the fact that there were two (2) issues that came up in that 15-year period that were similar in nature. But based on the testimony and the evidence presented, Mr. Jensen ultimately made a motion to approve the application with a year of probation. There was some additional discussion. There was an amendment to that motion to approve the application with two (2) years' probation to make sure that Mr. Garfield was on the straight and narrow, and that there would be some additional oversight to make sure he was in fact qualified to be a funeral director. However, that motion was not passed. The Board ultimately decided to table the motion because Mr. Garfield at the time was on criminal probation, but he had represented to the Board that his probation of one (1) year was going to be terminated at the six-month mark due to the fact that he had completed all the requirements of the plea. It did in fact occur. There was a little bit of a delay in getting that documentation, but it was sent to the Division on October 8th. That was the day before the meeting. So, it wasn't clear if that was in fact included with the Board packet, but we did include it with the Motion today. And that demonstrates that he was subject to early termination at the six-month mark, and he is now off probation.

Very simply, Mr. Garfield is here to respectfully request the Board to reconsider this vote, based on the prior discussions and based on the information testimony that's been presented. We fully appreciate the gravity of these charges and the Board's concern for the industry, the wellbeing of the public this industry serves, but we believe the documentation and the testimony that's been presented, and that will be available today at the Board's request, demonstrate that Mr. Garfield is a valuable member of this industry. He's a gifted funeral director, and this is not just a matter of his livelihood, which is at stake here, this is his passion. This is an industry he loves that he's dedicated to. And again, eighteen (18) years in the industry and other than these issues, not so much as a blemish on his record. He's not here seeking a free pass. He's not here asking the Board to overlook any of this. He's simply here asking for a chance to continue to work in the industry he loves, and he will frankly do anything he can to assure this Board that he is a responsible funeral director. Once again, Mr. Garfield is available today for questions. His employers are available today for questions. They will be happy to testify to this Board about the quality of services Mr. Garfield provides, the trust and responsibility they have placed in him as a funeral director prior to this denial, and the fact that he's an invaluable member of their team and frankly, not only is he important to their current practice, but future [inaudible] plans that they have. So, with that, we would just respectfully request the Board reconsider this vote. And once again, I, Mr. Garfield and his employers are available for any questions the Board may have. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Mr. Grabowski. Board members, kind of our first item on this agenda item would be would you like to proceed with a motion to reconsider the case?

MOTION: Mr. Ken Jones moved to reconsider the matter. Ms. Liotta seconded the motion.

Chair Peeples – Ms. Simon, if you will take a roll call vote, please?

Ms. Simon – Yes, ma'am. If you agree with a motion to reconsider, please respond by saying Yay. Otherwise respond by saying Nay. Mr. Clark?

Mr. Andrew Clark – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Quinn?

Mr. Bill Quinn – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Ms. Clay?

Ms. Clay – No.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Ferreira?

Mr. Ferreira – No.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Jensen?

Mr. Chris Jensen – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Jones?

Mr. Jones – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Ms. Liotta?

Ms. Liotta – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Chapman?

Mr. David Chapman – No.

Ms. Simon – And Madam Chair?

Chair Peeples – No.

Ms. Simon – And that motion passes, Madam Chair.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Simon. So now we are going to reconsider the case. We have an approved motion. So, as Mr. Grabowski has presented his comments, we do have Mr. Garfield. And Mr. Garfield, if you will let us swear you in, please, sir, in case there are questions for you.

Ms. Simon – Please raise your right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Chair Peeples – You are on mute.

Ms. Simon – You are on mute, sir. Sir, you're on mute.

Chair Peeples – Please let the record reflect that Mr. Garfield was on mute and we have lost his camera connection also, so he may be trying to rejoin the meeting.

Mr. Grabowski – Madam Chair, I'll reach out to him right now to see if I can assist.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, sir. Mr. Garfield, we had you connected for one second there. Mr. Garfield, if you have the agenda in front of you, if you would like to call the access number, you can join the meeting in that manner. Ms. Aikens, would it be appropriate, since we have a technological issue right now, for us to maybe place this item here on hold and go to the next agenda item so we can proceed? What would be your suggestion to us?

Ms. Aikens – Yes, I was actually going to suggest that. That would be appropriate. I think we may have been joined.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, ma'am.

Mr. Todd Garfield – Sorry about that. This is Todd. Can you hear me, okay?

Chair Peeples – Yes, sir. Please let Ms. Simon swear you in.

Mr. Garfield – Yes, ma'am.

Ms. Simon – Please raise your right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. Garfield – I do.

Ms. Simon – Please state your name and spell your last name for the record.

Mr. Garfield – Todd Garfield, G-A-R-F-I-E-L-D.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, sir.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Simon, if you will swear in his employer also in case there are questions for him also, please.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Mazzoni, please raise your right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. Dillon Mazzoni – I do.

Ms. Simon – Please state your name and spell your last name for the record.

Mr. D. Mazzoni – Dillon Mazzoni, M-A-Z-Z-O-N-I.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, sir.

Chair Peeples – And who is this gentleman?

Mr. Paul Mazzoni – Paul Mazzoni.

Chair Peeples – Ms. Simon?

Ms. Simon – Do you swear to tell truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. P. Mazzone – I do.

Ms. Simon – Please state your name and spell your last name for the record.

Mr. P. Mazzone – Name is Paul. Last name is Mazzone, M-A-Z-Z-O-N-I.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, sir.

Chair Peoples – Thank you. Board members, do you have any questions for Mr. Garfield or either Mr. Mazzone? If the Board members do not have any questions, what is the Board's pleasure? And Mr. Garfield, while we're waiting for a moment, would you like to address the Board, sir?

Mr. Garfield – Yes, ma'am. I think Luke said as much as could be said about it. Regardless of what the decision is, it's been a pleasure for the last fifteen (15) years to do what I love to do. I think like many of you, I feel stubborn enough to make a difference. I'd love the chance to keep doing that. But just thank you for your time either way.

Chair Peoples – Would Mr. D. or Mr. P. Mazzone like to address the Board?

Mr. D. Mazzone – Yes. Thank you. Todd has been with us now for a little over a year. And he's been, you know, great to watch the way that he interacts with these families. And if it counts for anything, I know the blemishes that are on his record but, you know, he's handling our stuff here at our funeral home as far as, you know, our money and stuff like that. So, it just goes to show the trust that we have within him. He has taken total accountability. He has, you know, told everything to us that has gone on, so we knew prior to him coming on Board with us. And just the way that he does, you know, interacts with these families, everything, he's one of the best funeral directors that I've seen, you know, my short time being in this industry. But dealing with him, you know, it's been complete and total pleasure having him as a huge part of our funeral home and you know, a big asset to us. So, I definitely would like the honor of having him as part of our establishment, so.

Chair Peoples – Thank you. Mr. Paul, would you like to make any comments, sir?

Mr. P. Mazzone – I second everything my brother has just said, and also what I have seen, he's very active with families and he is definitely a plus to our business.

Chair Peoples – Thank you, sir. Board members?

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to approve the application with two (2) years of probation. Ms. Liotta seconded the motion.

Chair Peoples – Is there any discussion on the motion? Ms. Simon, if you'll take a roll call, vote on this motion, please.

Ms. Simon – Yes, ma'am. Those in favor of licensure with two (2) years' probation, please respond by saying yay. Mr. Clark?

Mr. Clark – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Quinn?

Mr. Quinn – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Ms. Clay?

Ms. Clay – No.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Ferreira?

Mr. Ferreira – No.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Jensen?

Mr. Jensen – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Jones?

Mr. Jones – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Ms. Liotta?

Ms. Liotta – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Chapman?

Mr. Chapman – No.

Ms. Simon – Madam Chair?

Chair Peeples – No.

Ms. Simon – Madam Chair, that motion passes.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, ma'am. Good luck, Mr. Garfield and thank you and your employers for participating. Thank you, Mr. Grabowski.

Mr. Grabowski – Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the Board. We appreciate it.

Mr. Garfield – Thank you.

D. Disciplinary Proceeding(s)

(1) Motion for Determination of Waiver and Request for Informal Hearing and for Final Order by Hearing Not Involving Disputed Issues of Material Fact (Probable Cause Panel B)

(a) Chestnut Funeral Home, Inc.: DFS Case No. 350203-25-FC; Division No. ATN-46099 (F040669)

Ms. Simon – The Division is going to withdraw this matter from the Board agenda.

(b) Kelsey Mortuary Transport Services LLC: DFS Case No. 347840-25-FC; Division No. ATN-45605 (F581184)

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative of this entity on the call today? Hearing none. Ms. Marshall?

Ms. Kimberly Marshall – Thank you, Ms. Simon. Good morning, Board members, and Happy New Year. The above-referenced matter is presented to the Board for consideration of the Motion for Determination of Waiver and Request for Informal Hearing and for Final Order by Hearing Not Involving Disputed Issues of Material Fact (Motion) in the matter of Kelsey Mortuary Transport Services LLC (“Respondent”). The Department conducted an inspection of Respondent and found that at all times material to the allegations herein, Respondent was licensed as a removal facility. Respondent’s license expired on December 1, 2024, due to Respondent’s failure to renew the license, and the license remains expired as of today. Respondent continued to post advertisements on its Facebook page, which indicated that it was operational. Respondent further failed to submit to an inspection by the Department. This is a two-count Administrative Complaint, and the relevant statutes are as follows:

- Section 497.152(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Violating any provision of this chapter or any lawful order of the Board or Department or the statutory predecessors to the Board or Department.
- Section 497.152(1)(b), Florida Statutes: Committing fraud, deceit, negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the practice of any of the activities regulated under this chapter.

- Section 497.152(5)(b), Florida Statutes: Practicing or attempting to practice with a revoked, suspended, inactive, or delinquent license.
- Section 497.385(1)(e), Florida Statutes: Every licensee under this section shall at all times be subject to the inspection of all its buildings, grounds, and vehicles used in the conduct of its business, by the Department or any of its designated representatives or agents, or local or Department of Health inspectors. The licensing authority shall by rule establish requirements for inspection of removal services and refrigeration services.
- Section 497.152(4)(a), Florida Statutes: Improperly interfering with an investigation or inspection authorized by statute or with any disciplinary proceeding.

The disciplinary guidelines for these violations are as follows:

- *Count I: Attempt to or use a suspended, revoked, inactive, or delinquent license: If delinquent, \$250 per month. If other, fine of \$2,000 to \$3,500 plus costs. In addition, probation for up two (2) years with conditions, suspension up two (2) years or permanent revocation of license may be imposed.*
- *Count II: Improperly interfering with investigation or inspection: Reprimand, fine of \$1,000 to \$2,500 plus costs. In addition, probation for six (6) months to one (1) year with conditions, suspension up to one (1) year, or permanent revocation of license may be imposed.*

The Motion demonstrates that Respondent failed to timely file a responsive pleading contesting the factual allegations in the Administrative Complaint, requests that the Board adopt the factual allegations in the Administrative Complaint, and requests that the Board issue an appropriate penalty in this matter. I'll move on to my motions now. At this time, it would be appropriate for the Chair to entertain a motion determining that the Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint and failed to timely respond, thus waiving the right to a method of resolution in this matter.

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved that Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint and failed to timely respond, thus waiving the right to a method of resolution in this matter. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall – The Department asks that the Chair entertain a motion determining that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter. Ms. Clay seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall – Now that the Board has determined that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter, the Department asks the Chair to entertain a motion to adopt the allegations of fact as set forth in the Administrative Complaint.

MOTION: Mr. Ferreira moved to adopt the allegations of the fact, as set forth in the Administrative Complaint. Ms. Liotta seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall – Once again asking if there is a representative of this Respondent on the call today. Hearing nothing. The Department offers into evidence the investigative report with exhibits, a copy of which has been previously furnished to the Board, to establish a prima facie case for the violations alleged in the Administrative Complaint. Now that the Board has adopted the findings of fact in this case, the Department asks the Chair to entertain a motion finding that these facts constitute a violation of Florida Statutes as set forth in the Administrative Complaint.

MOTION: Mr. Ferreira moved that Respondent is in violation of Florida Statutes as set forth in the Administrative Complaint. Ms. Clay seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall – And as to penalty, the Department's recommendation is revocation.

MOTION: Mr. Jensen moved that Respondent's license shall be revoked. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion.

Chair Peebles – Mr. Ferreira, do you have a question?

Mr. Ferreira – What about the fine, Ms. Kimberly?

Ms. Marshall – We're not recommending a fine. Certainly, you're at liberty to impose one if you'd like.

Mr. Ferreira – If this motion is carried, how would the fine be collected?

Ms. Marshall – The reason I'm not recommending one is if somebody is no longer licensed, our powers to collect anything from them are very limited.

Mr. Ferreira – Thank you.

Chair Peeples – We have a motion by Mr. Jensen, a second by Mr. Chapman. Is there any other discussion on the motion? Hearing none. All in favor of the motion, say Yes.

Board members [Unison] – Yes.

Chair Peeples – All opposed say No. Motion carries.

(2) Motion for Determination of Waiver and Request for Informal Hearing and for Final Order by Hearing Not Involving Disputed Issues of Material Fact (Probable Cause Panel A)

(a) Related Cases - Division No. ATN-44718

1. Rivero, Jorge E.: DFS Case No. 344124-25-FC; Division No. ATN-44718 (F045199)

Ms. Simon – Is Mr. Rivero or a representative of Mr. Rivero on the call today? Hearing no response. Mr. Caracci.

Chair Peeples – Mr. Caracci, if you will, one second, sir. Mr. Jones?

Mr. Jones – Yes, I'd like to recuse myself from all Probable Cause Panel A items as I served on that panel.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Mr. Jones. Mr. Caracci?

Mr. Greg Caracci – Thank you. The above-referenced matter is presented to the Board for consideration of the Motion for Determination of Waiver and Request for Informal Hearing and for Final Order by Hearing Not Involving Disputed Issues of Material Fact (“Motion”) in the matter of Jorge E. Rivero (“Respondent”). The Department conducted an investigation of Respondent and found that at all times material to the allegations herein, Respondent was licensed as a funeral director and embalmer license number F045199. Respondent was funeral director in charge of Vior Funeral Home Inc, a funeral establishment and apprentice/intern training agency, license number F041403. The establishment released cremated remains without the consent of the legally authorized person who approved the cremation and failed to obtain their declaration of intent as required. This is a one-count Administrative Complaint, and the relevant statutory violations are as follows:

- Section 497.152(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Violating any provision of this chapter or any lawful order of the Board or Department or the statutory predecessors to the Board or Department.
- Section 497.152(1)(b), Florida Statutes: Committing fraud, deceit, negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the practice of any of the activities regulated under this chapter.
- Section 497.152(4)(h), Florida Statutes: Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation placed upon a licensee.
- Section 497.380(7), Florida Statutes: Each licensed funeral establishment shall have a funeral director in charge and shall have a licensed funeral director reasonably available to the public during normal business hours for the establishment. The funeral director in charge is responsible for ensuring that the facility, its operation, and all persons employed in the facility comply with all applicable state and federal laws and rules.
- Section 497.607(1), Florida Statutes: at the time of the arrangement for a cremation performed by any person licensed pursuant to this chapter, the legally authorized person contracting for cremation services shall be required to designate her or his intentions with respect to disposition of the cremated remains of the deceased in a signed declaration of intent which shall be provided by and retained by the funeral or direct disposal establishment. A cremation may not be performed until a legally authorized person gives written authorization, which may include the declaration of intent to dispose of the cremated remains, for such cremation.

- Rule 69K-21.007(3), *Florida Administrative Code*: Each full-time funeral director in charge shall be responsible for making sure the funeral establishment and all persons employed in the establishment comply with all applicable laws and rules of the Board. This subsection shall not be construed to absolve funeral establishments or other persons from liability for their violations of such laws and rules.

The disciplinary guidelines for these violations are as follows:

Count I: Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation placed upon a licensee: Reprimand, fine of \$250-\$2,000 plus costs. In addition, probation for 6 months to 1 year with conditions, suspension up to 1 year, or permanent revocation of license may be imposed.

While Respondent did timely submit an Election of Proceeding indicating that he disputes the Department's allegations, he did not specify what material fact or facts he disputes. As a result, on or about October 16, 2025, the Department entered an Order Dismissing the Petition Without Prejudice. Since that time the Department has not received any further pleadings from Respondent. At this time, it would be appropriate for the Chair to entertain a motion determining that the Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint and has failed to timely respond and thus waive the right to elect a method of resolution in this matter.

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved that Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint and has failed to timely respond and thus waive the right to elect a method of resolution in this matter. Mr. Quinn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Caracci – The Department asks that the Chair entertain a motion determining that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter.

MOTION: Mr. Jensen moved that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter. Ms. Liotta seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Caracci – Now that the Board has determined that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter, the Department asks the Chair to entertain a motion to adopt the allegations of fact as set forth in the Administrative Complaint.

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved to adopt the allegations of the fact, as set forth in the Administrative Complaint. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Caracci – If the Respondent is present, now would be an appropriate time to hear from him, if he would like to speak. All right. The Department offers into evidence the investigative report with exhibits, a copy of which has been previously furnished to the Board, to establish a prima facie case for the violations alleged in the Administrative Complaint. Now that the Board has adopted the findings of fact in this case, the Department asks the Chair to entertain a motion finding that these facts constitute a violation of Florida Statutes as set forth in the Administrative Complaint.

MOTION: Mr. Clark moved that Respondent is in violation of Florida Statutes as set forth in the Administrative Complaint. Mr. Quinn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Caracci – And as to penalty, the Department will be asking the Board to impose a \$2,000 fine in this case along with one (1) year of probation.

Mr. Ferreira – Madam Chair?

Chair Peoples – Yes, Mr. Ferreira?

Mr. Ferreira – Yes, ma'am. Is this the discussion time?

Chair Peoples – Yes, sir.

Mr. Ferreira – As I was going through this scenario and reading the testimony, which I think is very important for all of us to do, is read the testimony, there's always other sides to the story. I truly feel after going through this, that this scenario or this case needs to be withdrawn.

MOTION: Mr. Ferreira moved to have the case withdrawn.

Ms. Aikens – Withdrawn or dismissed?

Mr. Ferreira – Dismissed.

Ms. Aikens – Okay. Thank you.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Aikens. We have a motion by Mr. Ferreira. If the motion does not receive a second, it will fail. Ms. Aikens, we did not receive a second on the motion, so since we did not, it fails. Is that correct?

Ms. Aikens – That is correct.

Chair Peeples – Thank you. Pleasure of the Board?

Mr. Ferreira – Madam Chair?

Chair Peeples – Yes, Mr. Ferreira?

Mr. Ferreira – All right, I'll just maybe sum it all up for you. So, someone passed away. The family came into the arrangement conference room. The son of the deceased was in the arrangement conference room. The wife of the deceased was two and a half hours away. The wife gave the son trust to go into the arrangement room to make these plans for this individual, for his father. He paid for cremation. So, this gentleman was present all the way through the initial arrangement, all the way through to the service. The wife came in at the visitation just to sign the cremation authorization. Okay? But remember, the son paid for this, so whoever pays for this gets the remains. Plus, there is a text that proves that the wife gave the son permission to pick the remains up. So, I don't understand why we're even discussing this. That's just my -- if you guys look at that and read it, you'll see though that is what happened. So that's where I'm at.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Mr. Ferreira. Board members? Mr. Caracci has offered a suggested penalty of \$2,000 and one-year probation, and Mr. Ferreira has stated his position. What's the pleasure of the Board? Mr. Jensen?

Mr. Jensen – Madam Chair, I do agree with Mr. Ferreira in the sense that it's sort of a gray area in our business. You know, it's kind of shifted to here in the last little bit that who pays for it gets cremains, whereas it wasn't always like that, but I do feel there's some bit of responsibility that still lies on the funeral home here to make sure that they're doing exactly what's right. You know, verbal in our business counts. And I read the stuff as well and the lady did, you know, verbally commit to the funeral director that she wanted the cremains. So, unfortunately Mr. Rivero is not here to tell us exactly what happened. In reading everything I would agree that \$2,000 might be a little stiff.

MOTION: Mr. Jensen moved that Respondent shall pay a fine of \$1,000 fine to be paid within thirty (30) days of the Board Order and one (1) year of probation with standard conditions.

Ms. Clay – Madam Chair, if I can restate the motion?

Chair Peeples – Yes, ma'am. Mr. Caracci had suggested a penalty of \$2,000 and a one-year probation, but Mr. Jensen has made a motion of \$1,000 penalty fee and a one-year probation. So, we have a motion. We have not had a second.

Ms. Clay – Madam Chair, I will second.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Clay. So, we have a motion by Mr. Jensen of \$1,000 fine and a one-year probation, and Ms. Clay has seconded. Do we have any discussion on the motion? Hearing none. All in favor of the motion, say Yes.

Board members [Unison] – Yes.

Chair Peebles – All opposed say No.

Mr. Ferreira – No.

Chair Peebles – And our no vote, is that Mr. Ferreira?

Mr. Ferreira – Yes, ma'am.

Chair Peebles – Thank you. Are there any other No votes by Board member? Hearing none. Motion carries.

2. *Vior Funeral Home Inc: DFS Case No. 344123-25-FC; Division No. ATN-44718 (F041403)*

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative of this entity on the call today? Hearing no response. Mr. Caracci?

Mr. Caracci – Thank you. The above-referenced matter is presented to the Board for consideration of the Motion for Determination of Waiver and Request for Informal Hearing and for Final Order by Hearing Not Involving Disputed Issues of Material Fact (Motion) in the matter of Vior Funeral Home Inc (“Respondent”). The Department conducted an inspection of Respondent and found that at all times material to the allegations herein, Respondent was licensed as a funeral establishment license number F041403. Respondent released cremated remains without the consent of the legally authorized person who approved the cremation and failed to obtain their declaration of intent as required. This is a one-count Administrative Complaint, and the relevant statutory violations are as follows:

- Section 497.152(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Violating any provision of this chapter or any lawful order of the Board or Department or the statutory predecessors to the Board or Department.
- Section 497.152(1)(b), Florida Statutes: Committing fraud, deceit, negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the practice of any of the activities regulated under this chapter.
- Section 497.152(4)(h), Florida Statutes: Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation placed upon a licensee.
- Section 497.607(1), Florida Statutes: at the time of the arrangement for a cremation performed by any person licensed pursuant to this chapter, the legally authorized person contracting for cremation services shall be required to designate her or his intentions with respect to disposition of the cremated remains of the deceased in a signed declaration of intent which shall be provided by and retained by the funeral or direct disposal establishment. A cremation may not be performed until a legally authorized person gives written authorization, which may include the declaration of intent to dispose of the cremated remains, for such cremation.

The disciplinary guidelines for these violations are as follows:

Count I: Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation placed upon a licensee: Reprimand, fine of \$250-\$2,000 plus costs. In addition, probation for 6 months to 1 year with conditions, suspension up to 1 year, or permanent revocation of license may be imposed.

While Respondent did timely submit an Election of Proceeding indicating that it disputes the Department’s allegations, it did not specify what material fact or facts he disputes. As a result, on or about October 16, 2025, the Department entered an Order Dismissing the Petition Without Prejudice. Since that time the Department has not received any further pleadings from Respondent. At this time, it would be appropriate for the Chair to entertain a motion determining that the Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint and has failed to timely respond and thus waived the right to elect a method of resolution in this matter.

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved that Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint and has failed to timely respond and thus waived the right to elect a method of resolution in this matter. Mr. Quinn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Caracci – The Department asks that the Chair entertain a motion determining that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter.

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Caracci – Now that the Board has determined that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter, the Department asks the Chair to entertain a motion to adopt the allegations of fact as set forth in the Administrative Complaint.

MOTION: Mr. Chapman moved to adopt the allegations of the fact, as set forth in the Administrative Complaint. Ms. Liotta seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Caracci – And we would once again like to give the Respondent if present, opportunity to speak. All right. The Department offers into evidence the investigative report with exhibits, a copy of which has been previously furnished to the Board, to establish a prima facie case for the violations alleged in the Administrative Complaint. Now that the Board has adopted the findings of fact in this case, the Department asks the Chair to entertain a motion finding that these facts constitute a violation of Florida Statutes as set forth in the Administrative Complaint.

MOTION: Ms. Clay moved that Respondent is in violation of Florida Statutes as set forth in the Administrative Complaint. Ms. Liotta seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Caracci – And as in the previous case, the Department would be recommending a \$2,000 fine and one-year of probation for the entity.

Mr. Ferreira – Madam Chair?

Chair Peeples – Mr. Ferreira?

Mr. Ferreira – I know you guys think -- I just can't let this go. Listen, let's talk about this a little bit. This, so the contract is with the son, in this case, the contract. Okay. The remains go to the one who signed the contract. I know there's a statute 497.607(1), can we pull that up, Ms. Simon?

Ms. Simon – Each individual can pull that up on their computers.

Mr. Ferreira – Okay.

Chair Peeples – Which statute, Mr. Ferreira?

Mr. Ferreira – 497.607.

Chair Peeples – Which section on that?

Mr. Ferreira – I'm sorry, it's (1).

Chair Peeples – For the Board members in Florida statute 497.607(1), it says, *“At the time of the arrangement for a cremation performed by any person licensed pursuant to this chapter, the person contracting for cremation services shall be required to designate her or his intentions with respect to the disposition of the cremated remains of the deceased in a signed declaration of intent which shall be provided by and retained by the funeral or direct disposal establishment. A cremation may not be performed until a legally authorized person gives written authorization for such cremation. The cremation must be performed within 48 hours after a specified time which has been agreed to in writing by the person authorizing the cremation.”* Mr. Ferreira your comment regarding that statute?

Mr. Ferreira – So, in this case, his son signed the itemization or the contract for services. Am I missing something? I'm just asking.

Chair Peeples – Mr. Jensen?

Mr. Jensen – Once again, I do in principle agree with Mr. Ferreira. I see a couple things here. One, in the last case, there was testimony that the funeral director was told by the lady exactly who was supposed to get the cremains. We all came into this business knowing that the legal next kin hold all the cards. Some of that has changed a little bit. We have updated our cremation authorization to stipulate exactly who's supposed to receive the cremains. And looking at the cremation authorization for this funeral home, they do not have that on there, which is on Page 105 of 134 in your packet. So, they don't have that on there. So again, I feel like the funeral home does have some culpability here in making sure that the right thing is done because it's sort of a gray area, a little bit in my mind. So, you know, again, I would like to propose \$1,000 penalty and one-year probation as a motion, Madam Chair. I do think there's culpability on both sides here. Plus, you know, a big factor in this is the funeral home did not respond to the Department, you know, with an explanation or anything. If you read what was there, the Department hadn't even heard from them, and they're not here today. So, if this is not that important to them, you know, that weighs in my mind as well. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Jensen moved that Respondent shall pay a fine of \$1,000 fine to be paid within thirty (30) days of the Board Order and one (1) year of probation with standard conditions. Ms. Liotta seconded the motion.

Chair Peebles – Mr. Ferreira?

Mr. Ferreira – Yes. Mr. Jensen brings up a good point. They are not present. Thank you.

Chair Peebles – And Mr. Ferreira, I was going to also make that comment that I could possibly have a different view and interpretation of this if the Respondent or the entity had a representative here today, but since they have decided not to participate, I feel that that just shows their lack of concern for the situation. So, we have a motion, we have a second. Is there any other discussion on the motion? Hearing none. All in favor of the motion say Yes.

Board members [Unison] – Yes.

Chair Peebles – All opposed say No. Motion carries.

(3) Motion for Final Order by Hearing Not Involving Disputed Issues of Material Fact (Probable Cause Panel A)
(a) Cook, Donathan: DFS Case No. 338213-25-FC; Division No. ATN-44020 (F759101)

Ms. Simon – Is Mr. Cook or a representative of Mr. Cook on the call today? Hearing no response, Mr. Caracci?

Mr. Caracci – Thank you, Ms. Simon. The above-referenced matter is presented to the Board for consideration of the Motion for Final Order by Hearing Not Involving Disputed Issues of Material Fact (“Motion”) in the matter of Donathan Cook (“Respondent”). The Division conducted an investigation of Respondent and alleges that Respondent was a licensed a funeral director and embalmer intern license number F759101 until April 11, 2025. Respondent failed to deliver and install monuments to consumers or offer refunds upon request and operated an unlicensed monument establishment. This is a four-count Administrative Complaint, and the relevant statutory violations are as follows:

- Section 497.152(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Violating any provision of this chapter or any lawful order of the Board or Department or the statutory predecessors to the Board or Department.
- Section 497.152(1)(b), Florida Statutes: Committing fraud, deceit, negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the practice of any of the activities regulated under this chapter.
- Section 497.157, Florida Statutes: Engaging in any activity for which a license is required under this chapter, without holding such licensure in good standing.
- Section 497.550(1), Florida Statutes: Conducting, maintaining, managing, or operating a monument establishment in this state unless the monument establishment is licensed pursuant to this part.
- Section 497.553(5), Florida Statutes: Failure of a monument establishment to deliver and install a purchased monument or marker by the date agreed in the sales agreement shall entitle the customer to a full refund of all amounts paid by the customer for the monument and its delivery and installation, unless the monument establishment has obtained a written agreement from the customer extending the delivery date. Such refund shall be made within thirty (30) days after receipt by the monument establishment of the customer’s written request for a refund.

- Section 497.554(1), Florida Statutes: Each person selling monuments, markers, or related products for a monument establishment must be licensed as a monument establishment sales agent. This requirement shall apply notwithstanding that such person is already registered or licensed in another capacity pursuant to this chapter.

The disciplinary guidelines for these violations are as follows:

- *Counts I-IV: Failure of monument establishment to deliver and install a purchased monument or marker by the date agreed in the sales agreement, unless the agreed date has been extended in writing by the customer: Reprimand, fine of \$500-\$1,000 plus costs. In addition, probation for up to two (2) years with conditions or suspension up to 2 years may be imposed.*
- *Counts I-IV: Conducting, maintaining, managing, or operating a monument establishment unless the monument establishment is licensed. Reprimand, fine of \$1,000-\$2,500 plus costs. In addition, probation for 6 months to one (1) year with conditions, suspension up to one (1) year, or permanent revocation of license may be imposed.*

At this time, it would be appropriate for the Chair to entertain a motion determining that the Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint and has timely submitted a request for an informal hearing.

MOTION: Ms. Clay moved that Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint and has timely submitted a request for an informal hearing. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Caracci – The Department asks that the Chair entertain a motion determining that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter.

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Caracci – Now that the Board has determined that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter, the Department asks the Chair to entertain a motion to adopt the allegations of fact as set forth in the Administrative Complaint.

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved to adopt the allegations of the fact, as set forth in the Administrative Complaint. Ms. Clay seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Caracci – And I'd like to give the Respondent another opportunity if present to speak. Okay. The Department offers into evidence the investigative report with exhibits, a copy of which has been previously furnished to the Board, to establish a prima facie case for the violations alleged in the Administrative Complaint. Now that the Board has adopted the findings of fact in this case, the Department asks the Chair to entertain a motion finding that these facts constitute a violation of Florida Statutes as set forth in the Administrative Complaint.

MOTION: Ms. Clay moved that Respondent is in violation of Florida Statutes as set forth in the Administrative Complaint. Ms. Liotta seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Caracci – Thank you. As for a penalty recommendation to start with, the Department would be asking for a \$2,500 fine and one-year of probation. The Division would also be requesting the appropriate amount of restitution in each of these cases, which is as follows. Consumer PL would be owed a restitution in the amount of \$1,100. Consumer KB is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$2,151. Consumer CT is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$3,150. And finally, Consumer GA is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$2,175. And the Department would be requiring Mr. Cook to provide proof to the Department that all has been paid within six (6) months.

MOTION: Mr. Ferreira moved that Respondent shall pay a fine of \$2,500 fine to be paid within thirty (30) days of the Board Order and one-year of probation with standard conditions plus restitution, as outlined by the Department, to be paid within six (6) months. Ms. Liotta seconded the motion.

Chair Peeples – Do we have any discussion on the motion? Ms. Clay?

Ms. Clay – I just have a question. Is the restitution the actual cost or are other things factored in? Like what would've been the interest or something like that?

Mr. Caracci – There were several final judgments issued in this case, which I believe elevated the matter above what the original cost was, but it's [inaudible] consumer.

Ms. Clay – Thank you.

Chair Peeples – Any other discussion, Board members?

Mr. Jensen – Yes.

Chair Peeples – Mr. Jensen?

Mr. Jensen – So if I understand Mr. Caracci correct, if we do the fines and the restitution, are they still allowed to operate?

Mr. Caracci – Well, his establishment was unlicensed to begin with, and we've issued a cease and desist in that case.

Mr. Jensen – Okay. So, they will not have a license to continue whatsoever. They've never been licensed, is that --

Mr. Caracci – Yes, they shouldn't have been doing this in the first place.

Mr. Jensen – Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair Peeples – You're welcome, sir. Any other discussion, Board members? Mr. Ferreira?

Mr. Ferreira – So, let me understand, Mr. Caracci. The reason we can set the fine and this is because he's a licensed funeral director, correct?

Mr. Caracci – Yes, sir.

Mr. Ferreira – Okay. Thank you.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, sir. Ms. Aikens?

Ms. Aikens – Thank you. I just have a question. What's the time-period for the repayment of the fine? Is that six (6) months as well?

Mr. Caracci – That would be thirty (30) days, per usual.

Ms. Aikens – Okay. So, thirty (30) days is the standard. Thank you.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, ma'am. Board members, is there any other discussion? Hearing none. All in favor of the motion say Yes.

Board members [Unison] – Yes.

Chair Peeples – All opposed say No. Motion carries.

(4) Motion for Final Order by Hearing Not Involving Disputed Issues of Material Fact (Probable Cause Panel B)
(a) Alexander Funeral Home, Inc: DFS Case No. 347891-25-FC; Division No. ATN-45780 (F041525)

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative of this entity on the call today? Hearing no response. Presenting for the Department, Ms. Marshall.

Ms. Marshall – Thank you, Ms. Simon. The above-referenced matter is presented to the Board for consideration of the Motion for Final Order by Hearing Not Involving Disputed Issues of Material Fact (Motion) in the matter of Alexander Funeral Home,

Inc. (Respondent). The Division conducted an inspection of Respondent and alleges that Respondent is a licensed funeral establishment holding license number F041525. Respondent operated as a funeral establishment from December 1, 2024, through May 16, 2025, while its license was expired. This is a one-count Administrative Complaint, and the relevant statutory provisions are as follows:

- Section 497.152(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Violating any provision of this chapter or any lawful order of the Board or Department or the statutory predecessors to the Board or Department.
- Section 497.152(1)(b), Florida Statutes: Committing fraud, deceit, negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the practice of any of the activities regulated under this chapter.
- Section 497.152(5)(b), Florida Statutes: Practicing or attempting to practice with a revoked, suspended, inactive, or delinquent license.

The disciplinary guidelines for these violations are as follows:

- *Count I: practicing with a delinquent license, first violation: If delinquent, \$250 per month*

The Motion demonstrates Respondent has alleged that there are no material facts in dispute and for this matter to proceed as an informal hearing before the Board, and requests the Board adopt the factual allegations in the Administrative Complaint and issue an appropriate penalty. At this time, it would be appropriate for the Chair to entertain a motion determining that the Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint and has timely submitted a request for an informal hearing.

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved that Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint and has timely submitted a request for an informal hearing. Ms. Clay seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall – The Department asks that the Chair entertain a motion determining that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter. Ms. Liotta seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall – Now that the Board has determined that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter, the Department asks the Chair to entertain a motion to adopt the allegations of fact as set forth in the Administrative Complaint.

MOTION: Ms. Clay moved to adopt the allegations of the fact, as set forth in the Administrative Complaint. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall – Once again asking, is there a representative of Alexander Funeral Home on the call today? Hearing nothing. The Department offers into evidence the investigative report with exhibits, a copy of which has been previously furnished to the Board, to establish a prima facie case for the violations alleged in the Administrative Complaint. Now that the Board has adopted the findings of fact in this case, the Department asks the Chair to entertain a motion finding that these facts constitute a violation of Florida Statutes as set forth in the Administrative Complaint.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved that Respondent is in violation of Florida Statutes as set forth in the Administrative Complaint. Ms. Clay seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall – Okay. And then as to penalty, we are recommending a \$1,500 fine.

MOTION: Mr. Ferreira moved that Respondent shall pay a fine of \$1,500 fine to be paid within thirty (30) days of the Board Order. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion.

Mr. Jensen – Madam Chair?

Chair Peeples – Yes sir, Mr. Jensen?

Mr. Jensen – Yes. Quick question for Ms. Marshall. I see on here that they operated December 1, 2024. Our licenses normally expire in October. Are you shortening yourself a couple of months there?

Ms. Marshall – One moment. If you reference Page 28 of the materials in this case, it shows that they expired on December 1st.

Mr. Jensen – Ms. Simon?

Ms. Simon – Yes, sir?

Mr. Jensen – I never seen a license expire on December 1st.

Ms. Simon – Funeral establishment licensure expires on November 30th.

Ms. Simon – Okay. All right. My bad. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair Peebles – You’re welcome, Mr. Jensen. We have a motion by Mr. Ferreira and a second by Mr. Chapman. Is there any discussion on the motion? Hearing none. All in favor of the motion, say Yes.

Board members [Unison] – Yes.

Chair Peebles – All opposed say No. Motion carries.

(b) Phillips Mortuary: DFS Case No. 347306-25-FC; Division No. ATN-45196 (F040662)

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative of the entity on the call? Hearing no response, Ms. Marshall?

Ms. Marshall – Thank you, Ms. Simon. The above-referenced matter is presented to the Board for consideration of the Motion for Final Order by Hearing Not Involving Disputed Issues of Material Fact (Motion) in the matter of Phillips Mortuary (Respondent). The Division conducted an inspection of Respondent and alleges that Respondent is a licensed funeral establishment and apprentice/intern training agency holding license number F040662. Respondent operated as a funeral establishment from December 1, 2024, through April 23, 2025, while its license was expired. This is a one-count Administrative Complaint, and the relevant statutory provisions are as follows:

- Section 497.152(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Violating any provision of this chapter or any lawful order of the Board or Department or the statutory predecessors to the Board or Department.
- Section 497.152(1)(b), Florida Statutes: Committing fraud, deceit, negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the practice of any of the activities regulated under this chapter.
- Section 497.152(5)(b), Florida Statutes: Practicing or attempting to practice with a revoked, suspended, inactive, or delinquent license.

The disciplinary guidelines for these violations are as follows:

- *Count I: practicing with a delinquent license, first violation: If delinquent, \$250 per month*

The Motion demonstrates Respondent has alleged that there are no material facts in dispute and for this matter to proceed as an informal hearing before the Board, and requests the Board adopt the factual allegations in the Administrative Complaint and issue an appropriate penalty. At this time, it would be appropriate for the Chair to entertain a motion determining that the Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint and has timely submitted a request for an informal hearing.

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved that Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint and has timely submitted a request for an informal hearing. Mr. Quinn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall – The Department asks that the Chair entertain a motion determining that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter.

MOTION: Mr. Ferreira moved that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter. Ms. Clay seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall – Now that the Board has determined that there are no material facts in dispute in this matter, the Department asks the Chair to entertain a motion to adopt the allegations of fact as set forth in the Administrative Complaint.

MOTION: Mr. Ferreira moved to adopt the allegations of the fact, as set forth in the Administrative Complaint. Mr. Jensen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall – Okay. Asking once again, is there a representative of Phillips Mortuary on the call? Hearing nothing. The Department offers into evidence the investigative report with exhibits, a copy of which has been previously furnished to the Board, to establish a prima facie case for the violations alleged in the Administrative Complaint. Now that the Board has adopted the findings of fact in this case, the Department asks the Chair to entertain a motion finding that these facts constitute a violation of Florida Statutes as set forth in the Administrative Complaint.

MOTION: Mr. Ferreira moved that Respondent is in violation of Florida Statutes as set forth in the Administrative Complaint. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall – As to penalty, we are recommending a fine of \$1,250.

MOTION: Mr. Ferreira moved that Respondent shall pay a fine of \$2,500 fine to be paid within thirty (30) days of the Board Order. Ms. Liotta seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(c) Related Cases - Division No. ATN-43046

1. Salinas-Arana, Lissette S: DFS Case No. 344190-25-FC; Division No. ATN-43046 (F021008)

Ms. Simon – This item is going to be withdrawn from today's agenda.

2. SE Combined Services of Florida LLC d/b/a Caballero Rivero Westchester: DFS Case No. 344177-25-FC; Division No. ATN-43046 (F078957)

Ms. Simon – This item is going to be withdrawn from today's agenda.

(5) Settlement Stipulation(s) (Probable Cause Panel A)

(a) Duncan Brothers Funeral Home PA: DFS Case Nos. 338193-25-FC and 256439-19-FC; Division Nos. ATN-44038 and 33731 (F040331)

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative of this entity on the call today? Hearing no response, Mr. Caracci?

Mr. Caracci – Thank you. Duncan Brothers Funeral Home PA (“Respondent”) is a funeral establishment, licensed under Chapter 497, Florida Statutes, license number F040331. The Department conducted an investigation of Respondent and found that Respondent aided and abetted unlicensed activity, disposed of decedents prior to the issuance of a burial transit permit, and failed to obtain death certificates. Respondent has entered into a proposed Settlement Stipulation. The proposed stipulation provides that Respondent shall pay a \$1,750 fine and be subject to one (1) year of probation. The Department requests that the Board accept this Settlement Stipulation.

MOTION: Mr. Ferreira moved to accept the stipulation which provides that Respondent shall pay a fine of \$1,750 to be paid within thirty (30) days of the Board Order and be subject to one (1) year of probation. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(6) Settlement Stipulation(s) (Probable Cause Panel B)

(a) Ray Williams Funeral Home, Inc: DFS Case No. 347878-25-FC; Division No. ATN-44919 (F041189)

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative of this entity on the call today?

Ms. Lauren Pettine – Yes. Lauren Pettine here for the Respondent.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, Ms. Pettine. Representing the Department is Ms. Marshall.

Ms. Marshall – Thank you, Ms. Simon. Ray Williams Funeral Home, Inc. (“Respondent”) is a funeral establishment, preneed main, and apprentice/intern training agency, licensed under Chapter 497, Florida Statutes, license number F041189. The Department conducted an inspection of Respondent and found that this establishment operated for approximately five (5) months while its license was in expired status. Respondent has entered into a proposed Settlement Stipulation. The proposed stipulation provides that Respondent shall pay a fine of \$1,250.00. The Department requests that the Board accept this Settlement Stipulation. in resolution of this matter. And I’m available for questions. Thank you.

MOTION: Mr. Ferreira moved to accept the stipulation which provides that Respondent shall pay a fine of \$1,250 to be paid within thirty (30) days of the Board Order. Ms. Clay seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Pettine. It is 11:16. Let’s take a 10-minute restroom break and then we’ll come back with agenda item E. Thank you.

*****BREAK*****

Chair Peeples – Ms. Simon?

Ms. Simon – Yes ma’am.

E. Application(s) for Preneed Sales Agent
(1) Informational Item (Licenses Issued without Conditions) – Addendum A

Ms. Simon – This is an informational item pursuant to Section 497.466, Florida Statutes. The applicants on Addendum A have been issued their licenses and appointments as preneed sales agents.

(2) Recommended for Approval with Conditions (Criminal History)
(a) Moore, Carnell (Appointing Entity: Wilson Brothers Inc)

Ms. Simon – Is Carnell Moore on the call or a representative of Carnell Moore?

Mr. Carnell Moore – Carnell Moore is on the call.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, sir. On December 5, 2025, an application was received by the Division by the above named for licensure as a preneed sales agent under Wilson Brothers Inc. Applicant answered “Yes” to the background question regarding adverse licensing history on the application due to disciplinary action that required disclosing. Applicant provided the Division with a written explanation, completed adverse license history forms and other supporting documentation. In 2016, disciplinary actions were filed against Mr. Moore by the North Carolina Department of Financial Services of Insurance where he was fined \$500 and disciplined by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) where his securities license was suspended for thirty (30) days, and he was fined \$5,000. An additional disciplinary action was filed in 2024 against Mr. Moore by FINRA where his securities license was suspended for ninety (90) days, and he was fined \$10,000. These actions occurred in North Carolina and Florida, respectively. Mr. Moore has satisfied all conditions and paid all required fines. As of to date, there have been no further disciplinary actions against Mr. Moore. T I suggest that the Board hears from Mr. Moore before any action is taken. Is that acceptable, Madam Chair?

Chair Peeples – Yes, ma’am. Mr. Moore, will you let Ms. Simon swear you in, please.

Ms. Simon – Please raise your right hand, sir.

Mr. Moore – Thank you.

Ms. Simon – Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. Moore – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Please state your name and spell your last name for the record.

Mr. Moore – Carnell Moore, M-O-O-R-E.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, sir.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Mr. Moore. Would you like to address the Board, sir?

Mr. Moore – Yes. Regarding the disciplinary history, first, I'd like to say no clients complained or were ever injured. I've always done what's in the best interest of my clients. So, addressing the first disciplinary history, it was a business name change. I'd had a business approved by the name of Premier Player Sales Agency, Incorporated, and it was on our system as Premier Players at Merrill Lynch -- on the system as Premier Players, and I later wanted to take "Sales" off of the business name, so I changed the name to Premier Players, Incorporated, and that was what caused the discipline. FINRA said that the Premier Players represented the old entity, not the new entity. But Merrill Lynch said they don't believe I was trying to operate an outside business, but unfortunately, FINRA still fined and suspended me for the action. The insurance incident that happened alongside that, I used to have clients in North Carolina, I didn't have clients at the time, so I forgot to tell them of the situation. I had informed Florida, but I didn't North Carolina because I hadn't had clients there in a while. So, they understood that, and that's why it was a \$500 fine.

The most recent discipline from FINRA had to do with, I was volunteering -- I had founded a foundation that still operates, and I used to work as the executive director, but I had resigned from that position. I was strictly a volunteer, but FINRA said that my position seemed to expand versus -- because on the Board of Directors, my name was on there as a volunteer, so it made me part of the Board, they said. And so that's why the second discipline came along. I didn't realize I needed to tell them I was strictly a volunteer, but somehow because I was a volunteer on the Board of Director's listing, they saw me as a Board member. And so that process allowed them to impose a fine as well as a suspension.

And other parts of that included though I had helped the client. She had been a client for more than ten (10) years. I actually helped her start her business online, and she's very successful now. She had bought a new house. I sent her the address change form. She sent it back to me, completed, and said I forgot to put the -- I couldn't remember the account number to put on it. I emailed her back, "No worries. I'll have the account number placed on it." And so that process was wrong. I should have placed the account number on it and then let her sign versus putting it on after she signed. And the same thing happened with another client. So, it was two clients affected with the process being a little backwards. The other client had no hands and no feet, so I had her sign the form and then complete it for her. And I should have completed the form first and then had her sign. So those were the incidents that caused the discipline from the organization. But in the discipline write-up, FINRA did say the client knew what was happening. They authorized what was happening.

No clients ever complained. And that's the way I operate. I've been in business for about thirty (30) years. I hold multiple licenses, real estate mortgage and insurance and securities. And no complaints in any of the industries. It's only on the financial side of things. Some processes that I wish we could have just sat down and discussed to make it do better, just ended up into fines and suspension. So, I appreciate being allowed to speak and explain it. I can tell you I'll be extra careful going forward. Even when it is in the best interest of the client, just try to reach out to compliance or something and make sure we do it the right way. And I've always done good business, and I will carry on in this field. I started in the financial services business as an estate planner, so I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to add preneed sales to what I currently do. And so, thanks for letting me speak. I'll take any questions if you want to ask.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Mr. Moore. I appreciate your comments. And as a longtime licensee, I have a funeral director and embalmer license. I also participate in preneed with our company. And you kind of mentioned a couple of things that you have learned that you completed forms after a signature was on a particular form. This industry has a lot of unique characteristics about it and you being in the financial and securities businesses industry, I'm just concerned that these things have happened. And we have a lot of times, if you were on the call earlier today, that we have discipline cases that come through. So, it just concerns me about the extent of the penalties and the things that you have been through, through the

financial and securities industry there. So, I just wanted to make that comment to you. So, I will open it up to Board members. Do you have any questions for Mr. Moore?

Mr. Ferreira – Madam Chair?

Chair Peeples – Mr. Ferreira?

Mr. Ferreira – Mr. Moore, what funeral home are you going to be riding your preneed through?

Mr. Moore – It's Wilson Funeral Home.

Mr. Ferreira – Okay.

Mr. Moore – In Tampa, Florida.

Mr. Ferreira – Okay. Thank you.

Chair Peeples – Any other Board members with questions? Mr. Jensen?

Mr. Jensen – Mr. Moore question for you. I too have had a securities license, and I was looking at your fines here, and they're quite substantial. So obviously they felt like this was a pretty big issue. Like Madam Chair said, I have a little concern here with the track record because it's not been one (1) or two (2) or three (3), it's been four (4) or five (5) issues., and we at this Department and/or the funeral industry take our financial processes very seriously here. I don't understand why you want a preneed license if you can sell insurance and securities, you know, financial planning. I mean, it's a little odd to me. Can you explain that, please?

Mr. Moore – Let me start with the first comment you made about four (4) or five (5). It has not been four (4) or five (5). I've only had two (2). The way they write it up, it looks like several, but it's only been two (2) incidents. And most people in the securities business have wondered why didn't I have a verbal warning or a written warning? Why did it go to fines and suspensions? That's been asked plenty of times. And the only person that can answer that is really FINRA, because before the first incident, I was in business for almost twenty (20) years. No client complaint, no issues at all. And this comes up and it goes straight to suspension and a fine, and nobody could answer that question. Why would you do that to someone who doesn't have a history of bad business? And at that time, FINRA was only fining and suspending me for a business name change, from Premier Player Sales Agency, Incorporated to Premier Players, Incorporated. That's what the fine was for. No client hurt, nope. Merrill Lynch even stood up for me and said, you know, we don't believe he was trying to run outside business because he had the first one approved, so he just did the name change. So, I can't really explain why when someone who's never been in trouble, didn't get a verbal warning, or a public warning either. It went straight to suspension and a fine. Now, some background would say, because there was a class action lawsuit that was led in the security industry, and I was part of that for African America, and it ended up being the largest financial settlement on Wall Street. And people think this is actually an attack, a retaliation type stuff on your record. So that's what others have said too.

And then the second one was like I said, I had moved away from the executive director position. It's on the internet when we announced I was no longer doing it, but I'd be volunteering. So again, no client hurt. My client, the one that I changed the -- and I realize now, yes, I should not have added the account number afterwards even though she authorized me to do it. And the lady with no hands, even though she was having difficulty with the form, I should have still let her go through the difficulty, unfortunately, or just took over the paperwork and did it, and then let her do it with the signature. So, I definitely on the process, I take responsibility for that. I just wish, sometimes there's got to be teaching moments and say, "Hey, Carnell, I know you were trying to help them, but this is the right way to do this," instead of an instant fine and suspension. And I think that's what the world sees. These are substantial fines and amount of time, but I'm telling you what they are, and they were all done with the best interest of the client. That's why I have no client complaints. I've rarely lost a client in thirty (30) years. I think maybe two (2) that may have gone. So, I know from the outside looking in, it looks a little concerning, but the way I operate is I'm in business to help my clients.

And the second part about why I want to do preneed, like I said, I started in the business of estate planning. I do planning for every one of my clients, and it was actually about five (5) years ago, I started looking into this because I started telling clients, I know where your money is going, but I don't know where you're going. And this just made more sense to start taking it a little further with them, because even though we do the estate planning, now it's time to do the final planning on them. So that's the reason for adding it to make me more efficient in my conversation with them and actually bring more things to their attention to get it done.

Chair Peeples – Mr. Jensen, any follow up?

Mr. Jensen – Well, I mean, you know, Page 12 here, the letter from FINRA, you know, it said you submitted a letter of acceptance and waiver in consent to all this stuff. I wish I could see more from FINRA that actually says what it is. I know we're getting your side of the story, but we're not really hearing exactly what they based their big fines on. So, I'm just a little confused, that's all. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. Moore – I would love to know that too to be honest with you. And yes, I did sign a letter of waiver of consent. That first incident, just to prove I was not doing outside business, it was just a name change, that cost me \$63,000 out of pocket. I was ready to really settle that and move on. And when the second one came along, I was not going to spend that kind of money again.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, sir. Board members, any questions for Mr. Moore? What's the Board's pleasure?

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved to approve the application subject to the condition of a one (1) year of probation. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

Chair Peeples – Is there any discussion on the motion? If you will, Ms. Simon, will you take a roll call vote please, ma'am, on this motion?

Ms. Simon – If you agree with the motion for licensure, please respond by saying yay. Mr. Clark?

Mr. Clark – No.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Quinn?

Mr. Quinn – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Ms. Clay?

Ms. Clay – No.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Ferreira?

Mr. Ferreira – No.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Jensen?

Mr. Jensen – No.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Jones?

Mr. Jones – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Ms. Liotta?

Ms. Liotta – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Mr. Chapman?

Mr. Chapman – No.

Ms. Simon – Madam Chair?

Chair Peeples – No.

Ms. Simon – And that motion fails.

Chair Peeples – Thank you. Mr. Moore, the application is not approved but thank you for participating today.

Mr. Moore – I wish I understood why guys. I've always helped people. This does not really seem to fall in line with why I was fined like that. I mean, I've never hurt a client, so I just don't understand.

Chair Peeples – Thank you. Mr. Moore, if you'll give us just one second. Ms. Simon?

Ms. Simon – Madam Chair, I believe that the Board needs to take action on this matter. The Board did not approve this application. If somebody wanted to make a motion to deny, I would suggest it could be based on Section 497.152(3).

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Simon.

MOTION: Chair Peeples moved to deny the application based on Section 497.152(3). Mr. Chapman seconded the motion.

Chair Peeples – Is there any discussion on the motion? All in favor of the motion to say Yes.

Board Members [Unison] – Yes.

Chair Peeples – All opposed say No.

Ms. Liotta – No.

Mr. Jones – No.

Chair Peeples – Ms. Liotta and Mr. Jones are the only two no votes. Motion carries. So, the application is denied, Mr. Moore. Thank you.

Mr. Moore – Is there a time I can reapply?

Chair Peeples – If you would like to address that to the Division office after the meeting, sir, they'll be glad to give you the information.

F. Application(s) for Continuing Education

(1) Course Approval - Recommended for Approval without Conditions – Addendum B

- (a) Cremation Association of North America (16008)**
- (b) Jeffrey Holcomb (58008)**
- (c) National Funeral Directors Association (49609)**
- (d) New Jersey Funeral Service Education Corp. (58208)**
- (e) Selected Independent Funeral Homes (137)**
- (f) The Independent Funeral Group (55808)**

Ms. Simon – The courses presented on Addendum B has been reviewed by the CE Committee and the Committee, as well as the Division, recommends approval for the number of hours indicated.

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved to approve the applications. Mr. Quinn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

G. Consumer Protection Trust Fund Claims

(1) Recommended for Approval without Conditions – Addendum C

Ms. Simon – The CPTF claims presented on Addendum C have been reviewed by the Division, and the Division recommends approval for the monetary amounts indicated.

MOTION: Mr. Ferreira moved to approve all the claim(s) for the monetary amounts indicated. Mr. Quinn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

H. Application(s) for Embalmer Apprentice

(1) Informational Item (Licenses Issued without Conditions) – Addendum D

(a) Caudill, Nikki N F915303

(b) Ling, JaNavis F914118

Ms. Simon – This is an informational item. Pursuant to Rule 69K–1.005, F. A. C., the Division has previously approved the application listed on Addendum D.

Chair Peebles – If I may, Ms. Caudill is a member of our team here, and I would just like it for the record that if we had to have a vote, this would not influence me in any way regarding this. I'd just like it for the record that she is a member of our team, and this is our entity, our company. Thank you.

I. Application(s) for Florida Laws and Rules Examination

(1) Informational Item (Licenses Issued without Conditions) – Addendum E

(a) Funeral Director and Embalmer (Internship and Exam)

1. Callard, Amanda N

Ms. Simon – This is an informational item. Pursuant to Rule 69K–1.005, F. A. C., the Division has previously approved the application listed on Addendum E.

J. Application(s) for Internship

(1) Informational Item (Licenses Issued without Conditions) – Addendum F

(a) Funeral Director

1. Bastanzi, Jacqueline V F086912

2. Bulman, Samantha P F912458

(b) Funeral Director & Embalmer (Concurrent)

1. Harvey, Katrina T F913923

2. Kelley, Ashtyn E F853163

Ms. Simon – This is an informational item. Pursuant to Rule 69K–1.005, F. A. C., the Division has previously approved the application listed on Addendum F.

(2) Recommended for Approval without Conditions

(a) Request to Renew Internship

1. Funeral Director and Embalmer (Concurrent)

a. Iverson, Jessica L F638971

Ms. Simon – Is Ms. Iverson or a representative of Ms. Iverson on the call today?

Ms. Jessica Iverson – Yes, ma'am. Jessica Iverson is.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, Ms. Iverson. An application to renew the concurrent internship license due to illness, hardship, or awaiting results was received by the Division on November 20, 2025. The application was deemed completed once reviewed

and processed. The applicant was licensed as a concurrent intern pursuant to 69K-18.003 (6), Florida Administrative Code, which only permits one internship in a lifetime. Ms. Iverson concurrent intern license expired on November 20, 2025, and the application to renew was received timely. The Division recommends approval.

Chair Peeples – Ms. Simon, if you you'll swear in Ms. Iverson, please.

Ms. Simon – Ms. Iverson, please raise your right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Ms. Iverson – Yes, ma'am.

Ms. Simon – Please state your name and spell your last name for the record.

Ms. Iverson – Jessica Iverson, I-V-E-R-S-O-N.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, ma'am.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Simon. Ms. Iverson, thank you for participating today and being on the call I noticed in our Board packet on Page 5 there is information that Ms. Michelle Tarver, managing partner of Fuller Funeral Home submitted with the packet that you were scheduled to take the test on December 19th. Have you taken that test?

Ms. Iverson – Yes, ma'am. And I have passed.

Chair Peeples – Okay. So, that was for the second portion of the National Board, correct?

Ms. Iverson – Yes, ma'am. I passed the Arts portion in October.

Chair Peeples – So you have passed both Arts and Sciences. So, if you have passed that, can you kind of give us a reason for the request for a continuation of your internship? Because will you not be sitting for the state Laws and Rules Exam now?

Ms. Iverson – Yes, ma'am. So, it was just weird, bad timing to be honest. What happened was I was scheduled to take the National Board Sciences earlier on, and I failed it. And because I failed it, I had to wait for thirty (30) days to reschedule and retake it. And it had been scheduled for December 19th. That was the next available time. And because of that, that went into my internship expiring. So, because of that, I applied for the hardship because I didn't know what I could have done. What I understood with the provisional license is you have to have already passed the National Boards to apply for it, because that was my original plan was to apply for the provisional license just so I can have my internship extended and I can work while waiting to take state law exam. And that is where that fell in, because by the time I heard anything back, I had since taken and passed my National Board Sciences and I was trying to figure out what I should have done, what I could do now to kind of move forward from this, because I don't technically need the hardship. What I need is the provisional license, but I didn't know what I've done to extend my internship till now.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, I appreciate that. And congratulations on passing the National Board test. Sometimes, you know, this situation may need to only be extended for a less than one-year timeframe. So, do you have a thought of when you are going to try to take your state Laws and Rules Exam so the Board can make an informed decision?

Ms. Iverson – Thank you for congratulating me. I appreciate it. And yes ma'am, I am going to take it as soon as possible. So, I'm hoping within the next month I'll be able to schedule it as well as pass it.

Chair Peeples – Excellent. So, I would like to make a motion that we give her a six-month approval to continue her internship and that will give her an opportunity to take the State Laws and Rules exam.

MOTION: Chair Peeples moved to renew Ms. Iverson's internship for six (6) months. Ms. Liotta seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Peeples – Good luck, ma'am.

Ms. Iverson – Thank you.

K. Applications(s) for Registration as a Training Facility

(1) Informational Item (Licenses Issued without Conditions) – Addendum G

(a) Peeples Funeral Services, Inc. d/b/a Peeples Family Funeral Homes (Jacksonville)

(b) SCI Funeral Services of Florida, LLC d/b/a/ Harden-Pauli Funeral Home (Eustis)

Ms. Simon – This is an informational item. The Division has reviewed the applications on Addendum G and has found them to be complete and that the applicants have met the requirements to be a training agency. Pursuant to Rule 69K-1.005 Florida Administrative Code, the Division has previously approved these applications.

Chair Peeples – And Ms. Simon, if I may, this is our entity that I'm affiliated with and I would just like it denoted for the record that if we had had a vote, this would not influence me one way or another to continue on. Thank you.

L. Application(s) for Direct Disposal Establishment

(1) Recommended for Approval with Conditions

(a) Ava Cremations, LLC (Maitland)

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative of this entity on the call today?

Ms. Rebecca McDonough – Yes. This is Rebecca McDonough.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, Ms. McDonough. A new application for a direct disposal establishment licensure was received on September 11, 2025. The application was incomplete when received. The Division received the required information to complete the application on November 21, 2025. The DDIC will be Ms. Amanda M. Millar (F665649). A background check of the principal, Mr. Todd M. Degusipe, did not reveal any relevant criminal history. The Division recommends approval subject to the condition that the establishment passes an inspection by a member of the Divisions staff.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to approve the application subject to the condition that the direct disposal establishment pass an inspection by a member of the Division staff. Mr. Clark seconded the motion.

Chair Peeples – Is there any discussion on the motion? Mr. Jensen?

Mr. Jensen – Just a clarification, if I may. Ms. Simon said there was no criminal history and the answer on criminal history from the principals was no. But I did notice in the application that there was a DUI by Mr. Degusipe May of 2025, and I do not see a criminal history form filed for that.

Ms. McDonough – May I speak?

Chair Peeples – No, ma'am. We would have to swear you in, ma'am. So, if you'll give us just one second, please.

Ms. McDonough – Okay. No problem.

Chair Peeples – Ms. Simon, excuse me, I'm not sure if you're reviewing information, if you have a moment to swear in Ms. McDonough.

Ms. Simon – Ms. McDonough, please raise your right hand to be sworn in. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Ms. McDonough – Yes.

Ms. Simon – Please state your name and spell your last name for the record.

Ms. McDonough – Rebecca McDonough, M-C-D-O-N-O-U-G-H.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, ma'am.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, ma'am. Ms. McDonough, while the Division staff is reviewing, would you like to address Mr. Jensen's question?

Ms. McDonough – Yes. So, we did receive that and that was questioned by a Mac Smith, who was doing the application. And I reached out to our attorney, Wendy Wiener. I gave her all of the information because it was still in litigation. She said absolutely not. That is completely irrelevant. So had sent it back and the State did review it and say that there was not an issue with his incident in May.

Chair Peeples – Ms. Aikens, would you like to address Mr. Jensen's question, please?

Ms. Aikens – Yes. So, DUIs do need to be reported. One DUI is usually, across the Board, not seen as an issue or impediment for getting a license. It's usually an issue when it becomes, you know, two (2) DUIs, three (3) DUIs, and then over looking at that time period. But the DUI should have been disclosed on the application. Now, the applicant can amend her application verbally if the Board is amenable to that to put the DUI on the record officially and then send an updated application after the meeting.

Chair Peeples – Thank you. Ms. Simon?

Ms. Simon – Yes. Mr. Jensen, could you provide the page you're looking at?

Mr. Jensen – Well, the DUI is on Page 5 of 20, where it was reported “yes,” but there is no criminal history form in the packet here that I have. And the original, as you mentioned, there was no criminal history. So, I'm just a little confused as to why that skipped under the radar.

Ms. McDonough – May I answer?

Chair Peeples – One second, Ms. McDonough. Ms. Simon?

Ms. Simon – Well, Mr. Jensen, I don't see where that was finalized. I don't see where there is a disposition. There is a plea of not guilty and that would, unless I am not seeing something, that is not relevant to your decision today. He does not have to fill out a criminal history if there is no adjudication. So, it is relevant to your decision in one way or another, but there is no adverse criminal history unless I see something more recent. But in May of 2025 and there's a plea of not guilty. I don't think that there was anything further, at least nothing further that we received.

Chair Peeples – Ms. Aikens?

Ms. Aikens – I think to kind of flesh out the situation, at the time of the application, like Ms. Simon stated, the matter was still ongoing. So, the Department does not review like an arrest or without a final disposition. There's nothing, “to look at” essentially because the matter is still ongoing within the criminal system. Now what happened from that plea? We don't know. We don't have any updated information. But at the time of the application, I think the matter was still ongoing, so there wasn't anything else to necessarily report or fill out on that criminal history form.

Chair Peeples – Thank you. Ms. Simon, did you have a comment after Ms. Aikens?

Ms. Simon – Yes. Unless Ms. McDonough could provide information that it has gone further in court, the Department doesn't have that information. So, I would ask that Ms. McDonough tell us if she is able.

Chair Peeples – Thank you. Ms. McDonough?

Ms. McDonough – It was not ruled as a DUI. And that just came to fruition. I think it was just settled a week ago.

Ms. Simon – If I may ask one question. Can you tell me what county this was in?

Ms. McDonough – Seminole County, Florida.

Ms. Simon – Seminole County?

Ms. McDonough – Yes.

Ms. Simon – If I could just have one moment.

Chair Peeples – Yes, ma'am.

Ms. Simon – The last name of this individual is spelled D-E-G-U-S-I-P-E. And that was Seminole County, you said?

Ms. McDonough – Yes, ma'am.

Ms. Simon – I don't have any -- I'm not able to establish a record. Madam Chair, I don't think that we have that information whether something has happened since. Like I said, at the time of the application, we didn't have anything. There's nothing to indicate there was any further information on this. I'm unable to locate it. As a result, this is something that I don't think is relevant for the Board. If the Board so chooses, the Board can ask that this be tabled for further information, but I need to look at the date. This was finalized in November 21st. [inaudible] February if the Board is interested in looking into that. But as I said, we can't go further until that there is a judgment. Ms. Pettine might have more information.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Simon. Ms. Pettine?

Ms. Pettine – You know, unfortunately with Wendy being out this week, she is in recovery from a surgery, she is going to be the individual that would be able to provide more information as to why she recommended that a criminal history not be complete. I do believe that the Board is on the right track based on the information that I can find in my files, that it was related to the fact that there was no final disposition of the case at that time. It was just not reportable. So, if I can get more information from Wendy before the end of this meeting, I will do so but unfortunately there's very little I can do at this point. Thank you.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Pettine. Ms. Simon?

Ms. Simon – Yes. If I may make a recommendation to the Board on this matter. Even if Mr. DeGusipe was found guilty of a DUI in 2025, the Division would still be recommending approval. The Board may want to put a condition if they're interested but, as I said, the Division would still be recommending approval.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Simon. Ms. Schwantes?

Ms. Mary Schwantes – Yes. Thank you, ma'am. I just wanted to say that as Ms. Simon said, the Division's recommendation would not change. When the application was received, there was no final disposition on this matter. This is the kind of thing that comes up on renewals where, as opposed to tabling anything for right now. So, we would ask the Board make its decision based upon the materials that have been presented today, and at the time the application was received, there was not a requirement for further information because it wasn't available. And as Ms. Simon said, it still is not completely available to us.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Schwantes. And please let the record reflect that Mr. Ferreira has departed the meeting, so he is no longer participating. Coming back to Mr. Jensen, this was your original question, sir, do you have any follow-up?

Mr. Jensen – One is I did not realize that, you know, even if it's reported on the application, we're supposed to make decisions based upon the application and I was just concerned, I did not see a criminal history form since it was reported on the application, but I did not realize that -- you know, trials can go on years. I didn't realize that it has to be adjudicated before we

can act upon it according to what I understood Ms. Aikens to state. So maybe she could verbally delete that? I don't know. I mean I just, it's not the correct information is all I was pointing out.

Chair Peebles – Thank you. Ms. Simon?

Ms. Simon – Yes. I apologize for not finding this sooner. This was settled as stated and the individual entered a plea on December 8th to reckless driving, which is not a criminal offense. It was reduced from a DUI to reckless driving, as I said, not criminal.

Chair Peebles – So Mr. Jensen, does that complete your question, sir?

Mr. Jensen –Yes, ma'am, it does, and I'll make a motion to approve.

Chair Peebles – Well, we already have a motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mr. Chapman. We were in the discussion phase.

Mr. Jensen – Okay.

Chair Peebles – Thank you, sir. Is there any other discussion on the motion? Hearing none. All in favor of the motion say Yes?

Board members [Unison] – Yes.

Chair Peebles – All opposed say No. Motion carries. Thank you, ma'am, for participating today.

Ms. McDonough – Thank you.

M. Application(s) for Funeral Establishment

(1) Recommended for Approval with Conditions

(a) Brunetti Cremations, LLC d/b/a Brunetti Funeral Services, LLC (Palmetto Bay)

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative of this entity on the call today? Hearing no response. A new application for a funeral establishment licensure was received on October 24, 2025. The application was incomplete when received. The Division received the required documentation to complete the application on December 15, 2025. The FDIC will be Ms. Laura Mehu (F073141). A background check of the principal(s), Ms. Clara Rodriguez-Isora, Ms. Iyanse Rodreguez, Mr. Richard Romero and Mr. Jacobo A. Cabanas did not reveal any relevant criminal history. The Division recommends approval subject to the condition that the establishment passes an inspection by a member of the Divisions staff.

Chair Peebles – Thank you, Ms. Simon. I think Ms. Brunetti has joined the meeting. Is this Ms. Brunetti?

Ms. Iyanse Rodriguez – Iyanse Rodriguez, R-O-D-R-I-G-U-E-Z.

Chair Peebles – Thank you, ma'am. I appreciate that. We will not swear you in unless we have questions for you. Thank you. Board members?

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved to approve the application subject to the condition that the establishment pass an inspection by a member of the Division staff. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Peebles – Thank you, ma'am.

Ms. Rodriguez – Thank you.

(b) Stafford & Simon Family Funeral Home, LLC d/b/a/ Wilson Eichelberger Mortuary (Sanford)

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative of this entity on the call today? Hearing no response. An application for funeral establishment licensure based upon a change of ownership was received on September 30, 2025. The application was

incomplete when received. The Division received the required information to complete the application on November 14, 2025. The FDIC will be Mr. Terrance J. Stafford (F078477). A background check of the principals, Mr. Terrance J. Stafford and Ms. Ortavia Simon did not reveal any relevant criminal history. The Division recommends approval subject to the condition that the establishment passes an inspection by a member of the Divisions staff.

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved to approve the application subject to the condition that the establishment pass an inspection by a member of the Division staff. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

N. Application(s) for Preneed Main

(1) Recommended for Approval with Conditions

(a) *Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Cemetery Inc (Oxford)*

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative of this entity on the call today?

Mr. Henry Thompson – Yes, Henry Thompson.

Ms. Simon – Good afternoon, Mr. Thompson. The Department received an application for preneed main licensure on October 16, 2025, and no deficiencies were noted on the application. The officers of the Corporation are Frank Giglio and John Rohan. A completed background check of all principals was returned to the Division without criminal history. Applicant is submitting this application for a new preneed license, and the qualifying cemetery license, Phase 2 was approved at the November 2, 2025, Board meeting (License # pending), is also located at the above address. If approved, Applicant will sell trust-funded preneed through Funeral Services Inc (FSI) (Argent Trust Company) and utilize the approved pre-arranged funeral agreement forms. The Division recommends approval subject to the condition that the qualifying cemetery has met the conditions for licensure as provided by the Board during the November 2025 Board meeting.

Chair Peebles – Thank you. Are there any questions for Mr. Thompson before we go forward? Hearing none. Mr. Jones?

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to approve the application subject to the condition that the qualifying cemetery has met the conditions for licensure as provided by the Board during the November 2025 Board meeting. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Peebles – Thank you, sir.

Mr. Thompson – Thank you, Board.

O. Application(s) for Removal Service

(1) Recommended for Approval with Conditions

(a) *Eternal Transport Orlando, LLC (Orlando)*

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative on the call for this entity? Hearing no response. An application for removal facility licensure based upon a change in location (prior license F813526) was received on November 12, 2025, and the Division has considered the application complete on this same date. A background check of the principal, Ms. Miranda Robinson did not reveal any relevant criminal history. The Division recommends approval subject to the condition that the removal service passes an inspection by a member of the Divisions staff.

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved to approve the application subject to the condition that the removal service pass an inspection by a member of the Division staff. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(b) *Funeral Transit Services, LLC (Pensacola)*

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative on the call for this entity? Hearing no response. A new application for removal facility licensure was received on August 26, 2025. The application was incomplete when received. The Division received the required information to complete the application on November 14, 2025. A background check of the principal, Mr. Travis Mock did not

reveal any relevant criminal history. The Division recommends approval subject to the condition that the removal service passes an inspection by a member of the Divisions staff.

Mr. Travis Mock – I apologize I could not get my mic on fast enough. I would like to state that Funeral Transit Services representative is here and attending.

Chair Peeples – What is your name, please?

Mr. Mock – Travis Mock.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, sir.

MOTION: Ms. Clay moved to approve the application subject to the condition that the removal service passes an inspection by a member of the Division staff. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

Chair Peeples – Is there any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Jensen – Question.

Chair Peeples – Yes, Mr. Jensen?

Mr. Jensen – Yes. Question maybe for Ms. Simon here. I noticed on the application the box that says yes to other industry license was checked, but the other license form did not list any other industry license. Is there another industry license?

Mr. Mock – No sir. There is not.

Chair Peeples – Mr. Mock? Mr. Mock, one second, sir, we need to swear you in, please.

Mr. Mock – Oh, my apologies.

Ms. Simon – Please raise your right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. Mock – Yes, ma'am.

Ms. Simon – Please state your name and spell your last name for the record.

Mr. Mock – Travis Mock. Last name is spelled M-O-C-K.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, sir.

Chair Peeples – Mr. Mock, if you would like to address Mr. Jensen's question, sir?

Mr. Mock – Yes, ma'am. Mr. Jensen, no sir. There is no other licenses other than just doing transport, sir.

Mr. Jensen – Thank you.

Chair Peeples – Mr. Jensen does that complete your question?

Mr. Jensen – Yes ma'am. It just said yes, there were other industry licenses and I did not see another other license form that listed that, so I was just a little confused. Thank you.

Chair Peeples – Thank you. Any other questions? Hearing none. All in favor of the motion say Yes.

Board members [Unison] – Yes

Chair Peeples – All opposed say No. Motion carries. Thank you. Mr. Mock.

Mr. Mock – Yes ma'am. Thank you, guys.

(c) J&J Transportation Services Removals, LLC (Davie)

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative on the call for this entity?

Mr. Jessie Colston – Yes ma'am. My name is Jessie Colston.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, ma'am. A new application for a removal service was received on November 19, 2025. The application was incomplete when received. The Division received the required information to complete the application on December 16, 2025. A background check of the principal, Ms. Jessie A Colston, did not reveal any relevant criminal history. The Division recommends approval subject to the condition that the removal service passes an inspection by a member of the Divisions staff.

Chair Peeples – Board members?

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved to approve the application subject to the condition that the removal service pass an inspection by a member of the Division staff. Ms. Clay seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Colston.

Ms. Colston – Thank you. Happy holidays to you guys.

P. Related Items

(1) Recommended for Approval with Conditions

(a) Monument Establishment Builder

1. Nefesh Monuments, Inc. (Lake Worth)

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative of Nefesh Monuments Incorporated on the call today?

Mr. Jay Lyons – I am. Good afternoon.

Ms. Simon – Good afternoon, sir. An application for monument establishment licensure based upon a change of location (prior license F227573) was received by the Division on November 7, 2025. The application was incomplete when received and as of December 15, 2025, the Division deemed this matter ready for Board review below. A background check of one of the business principals, Mr. Jay Lyons, did not reveal any relevant criminal history. Since the time of application, Mr. Elhonon Zohn is no longer a Board member of the applicant, and no longer a principal of the business. The Division recommends approval subject to the condition(s) as follows:

1. That the establishment pass an inspection by a member of Division staff
2. That the Division receive criminal background checks of principals Mr. Haryl Askotzky and Mr. Norbert Baumann, with no relevant criminal history

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Simon. Board members. Mr. Jensen?

Mr. Jensen – Rabbi Lyons, good to see you and thank you for your service to this Board.

Rabbi Lyons – Thank you, sir. Good to see you all.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to approve the application subject to the conditions recommended by the Division. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(b) Monument Sales Agreement
1. Nefesh Monuments, Inc. (Lake Worth)

Ms. Simon – In conjunction with that application for licensure, the entity also submits a monument establishment sales agreement. The Division recommends approval subject to the condition that two (2) full-sized print-ready copies of the revised monument sales agreement are received by the Department within sixty (60) days of the Final Order executed in this matter. There is a representative on the call for this matter, as well.

MOTION: Mr. Jensen moved to approve the agreement subject to the condition that two (2) full-sized print-ready copies of the revised monument sales agreement are received by the Department within sixty (60) days of the Final Order executed in this matter. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Rabbi Lyons. Good to see you.

Rabbi Lyons – Thank you all. Good to see you all. Good luck everyone. Take care.

(2) Recommended for Approval with Conditions
(a) Monument Establishment Retailer
1. Citizen Memorials, LLC (Miami)

Ms. Simon – Is there a representative of that entity on the call today?

Mr. Juan Quiceno – Yes, I'm here.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, sir, please state your name.

Mr. Quiceno – My name is Juan Quiceno.

Ms. Simon – Thank you. A new application for monument establishment retail licensure was received on November 5, 2025. The application was incomplete when received. The Division received the required documentation to complete the application on December 15, 2025. A background check of the principal, Ms. Sarahi Quiceno-Catano did not reveal any relevant criminal history. The Division recommends approval subject to the condition that the establishment passes an inspection by a member of the Divisions staff.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to approve the application subject to the condition that the establishment passes an inspection by a member of Division Staff. Ms. Liotta seconded the motion.

Chair Peeples – Is there any discussion on the motion? Mr. Jensen?

Mr. Jensen – And just a clarification here, under Section 9, number F there's a statement there that says, "sales records since opening website," and this is a new application. So, what does that mean?

Chair Peeples – Mr. Jensen, if you will? Mr. Quiceno, if you will let Ms. Simon swear you in so you can help us with this question, sir.

Mr. Quiceno – Sure.

Ms. Simon – Please raise your right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. Quiceno – Yes, ma'am.

Ms. Simon – Please state your name and spell your last name for the record.

Mr. Quiceno – Sure. My name is Juan Quiceno, Q-U-I-C-E-N-O.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, sir. Would you like to address Mr. Jensen's question?

Mr. Quiceno – Yes, ma'am. Thank you. Yes, sir. Basically, we have customers who --

[Audio cuts out]

Chair Peeples – Did we lose Mr. Quiceno? Mr. Quiceno, are you still connected to the call?

Mr. Quiceno – I am here, ma'am. I'm so sorry. Can you hear me?

Chair Peeples – Yes, sir.

Mr. Quiceno – I'm so sorry. Yes, ma'am. I apologize. I'm on my phone here and I'm not sure if I have some issues. The reason we included that was we just felt I believe somewhere along the statue lines it recommended including how customers kind of find you and most of us are -- we get people who visit us and or call us because they've seen our -- through Google or whatnot. So that's the reason for including that. It's nothing special. It's just we included the website because that is how some of our customers do find us through our marketing, if you will, or what we want to be able to market to customers.

Chair Peeples – Mr. Jensen, do you have a follow-up?

Mr. Jensen – Yes, ma'am. So, sir, does that mean you were marketing before you had a license or making sales?

Mr. Quiceno – Yes, sir. That's a great question. So, we launched our company in October, and we were building a website and that's kind of the reason that we became aware that we had to have a license. We shared with the gentleman who visited us and the young lady, I believe her name was Jessica, and the gentleman at Tallahassee, all of our records because they asked us, if we have a website, have we made any sales or have we done anything like that? And we shared everything with them. We haven't had any sort of transactions in the State of Florida. While the website was being built, we did have customers who called and we would inform them, look, we're not able to sell to anyone because we don't have a license. We were working with an agency to develop our website, and the website has been live as it's being built, if that makes any sense.

Mr. Jensen – So, the answer is no to the question you have not made any sales?

Mr. Quiceno – No. That's correct. Yes, sir.

Mr. Jensen – Okay, thank you.

Mr. Quiceno – Correct. Yes, sir. Correct. Yes, You're welcome. Thank you, sir.

Chair Peeples – Any other questions for Mr. Quiceno? We have a motion, and we have a second. Any other discussion? Hearing none. All in favor of the motion, say Yes.

Board members [Unison] – Yes

Chair Peeples – All opposed say No. Motion carries.

(b) Monument Sales Agreement
1. Citizen Memorials, LLC (Miami)

Ms. Simon – In conjunction with that application for licensure, the entity also proffers a monument establishment sales agreement. The Division recommends approval subject to the condition that two (2) full-sized print-ready copies of the revised monument sales agreement are received by the Department within sixty (60) days of the Final Order executed in this matter.

Chair Peeples – Board members?

MOTION: Ms. Liotta moved to approve the agreement subject to the condition that two (2) full-sized print-ready copies of the revised monument sales agreement are received by the Department within sixty (60) days of the Final Order executed in this matter. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, sir.

Mr. Quiceno – Thank you.

Q. Executive Director's Report
(1) Operational Report (Verbal)

Ms. Simon – At this point, I'll turn the meeting over to our Executive Director, Mary Schwantes.

Ms. Schwantes – Thank you. Good afternoon, Board members. Madam Chair, may I continue?

Chair Peeples – Yes, ma'am.

Ms. Schwantes – Awesome. The Board member application process, I'm very pleased to tell you that it has been approved and it will be posted on our website. I expect by tomorrow. There are five (5) positions which termed on September 30th. Current Board members may apply for reappointment and should follow the directions that are provided on our website. Additionally, you will receive an email from us about that. Otherwise, if you know anyone who may be interested in serving on the Board, please direct them to the Recent News section on our website after tomorrow for instructions on how to apply. Any questions regarding the process should be referred to me directly to my email.

I want to go into the legislative report at this point. As you know, the regular legislative session this year begins on January 13th and ends sixty (60) days later on March 13th. The Department's Agency Bill is expected to be filed soon. We are currently following about [audio cuts out] bills that have been filed and I understand that Friday, being tomorrow, is the last day for the filing of bills. This, I believe, is going to be, other than what's filed today and tomorrow, the sum of what will follow.

The first is SB188 and HB819, regarding Medical Examiner's Duties. We talked about this briefly last month. Senate Bill was filed in October by Senator Garcia. The House Bill filed on December 18th by Representative Persons-Mulicka. This Senate Bill requires medical examiners to document and report certain infant and child autopsy findings to a national registry with penalties for noncompliance. The House Bill establishes uniform autopsy documentation and reporting requirements for sudden and unexpected deaths with penalties for noncompliance. The reason we are monitoring this is that although it's not specifically related to Chapter 497, we try to follow bills concerning Section 406 on examinations, investigations, and autopsies, mostly due to industry interest. The Senate Bill is still in the first of its three (3) committees with no hearing date set. The House Bill is also in the first of its three committees with no hearing dates set.

The next two (2) bills to discuss are sort of similar. These are SB1124 and HB821, Public Records and Autopsy Reports of Certain, Sudden and Unexpected Deaths. The Senate Bill was filed on January 5th by Senator Garcia. The House Bill was filed on December 18th by Representative Persons-Mulicka. These exempt autopsy reports of certain, sudden and unexpected deaths from public disclosure while allowing limited release under very specific conditions. Again, we are monitoring these mostly due to industry interest. The Senate Bill has not yet been assigned to committees, and the House Bill is in the first of its three (3) committees. No hearing date set. By the way, by the time we report again in February, I expect a lot of committee activity will have taken place and will be further along in this process.

The next item is HB145. This is Suits Against the Government for 2026. This is related to bills you all have seen in the past. It increases the statutory liability limits for tort claims against governmental entities, streamlines claim procedures and address statutes of limitation and insurance provisions while creating new exceptions for specific victims. If it's adopted, it's going to reenact one of our sections, Section 497.167(7), which is administrative matters, just to incorporate the amendments that are made to an already referenced statute in that subsection. It has been approved by all three (3) committees and is now on the

House calendar for the second reading with no dates set. That's just in the House, not in the Senate. We'll watch and see what happens with that.

SB104, Florida Statutes 2026 was filed on December 3rd by Senator Passidomo and there's no related House Bill as of yesterday. This streamlines various Florida statutes by revising outdated terms, correcting references, and removing obsolete provisions. Frankly, you see a bill like this, every session. It's a cleanup bill. If it's adopted, a statutory reference to 553.73(2), which is contained in 497.271, dealing with the construction of mausoleums and columbaria will be collected. It's in the first and only committee assigned, which is Senate Rules, but no due hearing date has been set. Again, I expect to have a lot more information on that by next month.

Now I'm going to move on to matters concerning cemeteries. SB34 and HB425 on the Historic Cemeteries Program for 2026. The Senate Bill was filed in September by Senators Sharief and Bernard. The identical House Bill was filed on November 14th by Representative Aristide. These require local governments to approve land use and zoning changes for excess vacant land in historic African American cemeteries sold to fund long-term upkeep and it adds a new subsection to Senate Section 267.21 mandating that local governments must approve a change to the most permissive adjacent land, use category and zoning district for excess cemetery property. It allows proceeds from the sale of such excess land to be used for the long-term maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery. This year we are seeing, as you'll see in the next couple of bills, more efforts to fund and maintain long-term care of these historic cemeteries. That has been a continuous problem that we've seen with these older cemeteries. The Senate Bill is still in the second of its committees, which is the Government Oversight and Accountability Committee. No hearing date has been set. The House Bill is in the first of its committees, the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, with no hearing date set.

The next bill is SB1360, Historic Cemeteries Trust Fund, Department of State 2026. This was filed just yesterday by Senator Sharief and there's no House Bill at this time. It creates the Historic Cemeteries Trust Fund to provide for the long-term maintenance and upkeep of certain cemeteries. And that trust fund would be within the Division of Historical Resources for designated cemeteries. The Senate Bill's committee references have not been assigned yet. That was expected to be filed yesterday.

There is another bill, SB1248 on Abandoned Cemeteries for 2026. This was filed on Tuesday, January 6th by Senator Davis and there's no related House Bill. This requires an easement granting state access to abandon cemeteries on private property for maintenance, research, and non-invasive searches. The Senate Bill's committee references have not yet been assigned.

SB598, Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services 2026. This is our industry association's bills that have been filed. The Senate Bill was filed on November 19, 2025, by Senator Truenow. As of this morning, hot off the press, there is a House Bill that was filed, HB1231, by Representative Oliver. I have covered a lot of the information that was provided regarding these bills in our last meeting, and we will have further information about these going forward, but we have not yet completed our analysis of both of those bills. Primarily they prohibit exclusive provider contracts, limit negligence liability, revise licensure and cemetery acreage criteria, bar new direct disposal licensing, and authorize disposal of unclaimed remains after ninety (90) days. The Senate Bill is in the first of its committees with no hearing date set, and the House Bill again, which was just filed this morning, there have been no committees assigned yet. And that ends the legislative report for this go round. I'm sure there's going to be a lot more to discuss in February.

Speaking of which, our next full Board meeting will take place in person in Tallahassee on February 5th, at 10:00 AM. Additional details on this and all Board meetings or related committee meetings are found on our website. Unless there are questions, this ends this portion of Executive Director's Report. Thank you.

Chair Peeples – Thank you, ma'am. Ms. Simon?

Ms. Simon – Thank you, Ms. Schwantes.

(2) Report on Payment of Disciplinary Fines and Costs (Informational)

Ms. Simon – This is an informational report.

Monthly Report of Fines and Costs Assessed and Paid (Division of Funeral, Cemetery and Consumer Services) Date of Board meeting: January 8, 2025
 Date of Board meeting: January 8, 2025
 Date report was prepared: December 22, 2025

Licensee	Board Meeting	Case No.	Total Fine	Date Due	Paid in Full?	Comments
Aroher Funeral Home LLC	4-Dec-25	308410-25-FC	\$2,600			
John Milton	4-Dec-25	308411-25-FC	\$2,600			
All Points Removal Service	10/4/2025	317084-25-FC	\$2,600			
Brandon Cremation and Funeral Services Inc.	4-Dec-25	347889-25-FC	\$2,600			
Craig Funeral Home, Inc	4-Dec-25	347461-25-FC	\$600			
Craig Funeral Home, Inc	4-Dec-25	347468-25-FC	\$600			
Davis and Davis Funeral Services LLC	4-Dec-25	348975-25-FC	\$2,000			
Harris Mortuary, Inc	4-Dec-25	347907-25-FC	\$760			
Brownlie-Maxwell Funeral Home, P.A.	4-Dec-25	348848-25-FC	\$760			
Graoe Funeral Home	4-Dec-25	348908-25-FC	\$760			
Melbourne Crematorium	4-Dec-25	348848-25-FC	\$760			
Mitohell Funeral Home	4-Dec-25	348909-25-FC	\$1,600			
Riokey Shamard Butts	4-Dec-25	300828-25-FC & 300707-25-FC	\$1,800			
Weston's Mortuary	4-Dec-25	347488-25-FC	\$760			
R. Butts dba Butts Memorial Chapel	4-Dec-25	300824-25-FC & 300705-25-FC	\$1,800			
Joseph Pinello	Nov-25	343571-25-FC	\$1,750			
Pinello Funeral Home	Nov-25	343589-25-FC	\$1,750			
Aikens Funeral Home	Nov-25	345517-25-FC	\$260			
Trina Benn	Nov-25	325263-24-FC	\$1,250			
Oaklawn Park Inc. db/a Greenwood Cemetery	Nov-25	334849-24-FC	\$5,000			
Smith-Young's Funeral Home	Nov-25	348973-25-FC	\$1,000			
Clark & Norris Home of Funerals LLC:	10/2/2025	325245-24-FC	\$260	11/24/2025	Paid in Full	
David Keith Fields	10/2/2025	344228-25-FC	\$760	12/1/2025	Paid in Full	
Foundation Partners of Florida LLC db/a Oak Ridge Funeral Care	10/2/2025	344225-25-FC	\$760	12/1/2025	Paid in Full	
Foundation Partners of Florida LLC db/a Oak Ridge Funeral Care	10/2/2025	309702-25-FC	\$2,800	12/1/2025	Paid in Full	
Kimberly Laurie Mitchell	10/2/2025	309703-25-FC	\$2,850	12/1/2025	Paid in Full	
Veterans Funeral Care Florida LLC	10/2/2025	320310-25-FC	\$1,600	12/1/2025	Paid in Full	
Veterans Funeral Care, Inc.	10/2/2025	320308-25-FC	\$1,600	12/1/2025	Paid in Full	
Woodlawn Crematory	10/2/2025	333182-24-FC	\$1,000	11/28/2025	Paid in Full	
Ralph Vierling	10/2/2025	334803-24-FC	\$1,600	12/1/2025	Paid in Full	
Anthony White	10/2/2025	333195-25-FC	\$1,600	12/1/2025	Paid in Full	
Conetta DeGirolamo Carlson	10/2/2025	333189-24-FC	\$1,000	11/28/2025	Paid in Full	
S.E. Cemeteries of Florida LLC db/a Orlando Personal Care Center	10/2/2025	333187-24-FC	\$1,000	12/1/2025	Paid in Full	
Liam Bleasdale Smith	10/2/2025	333188-24-FC	\$1,000	11/24/2025	Paid in Full	
Foundation Partners of Florida LLC db/a Charlotte Memorial Cemetery	10/2/2025	320388-25-FC	\$600	12/1/2025	Paid in Full	
Kotzady-Hudgins Funeral Services LLC db/a St. Johns Family Funeral Home and Crematory	10/2/2025	348964-25-FC	\$600	11/24/2025	Paid in Full	
Kotzady-Hudgins Funeral Services LLC db/a St. Johns Crematory	10/2/2025	348962-25-FC	\$600	11/24/2025	Paid in Full	
Soobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home	10/2/2025	345084-25-FC	\$760	11/17/2025	Paid \$260	
Michael Wayne Bowden	10/2/2025	345086-25-FC	\$760	11/17/2025	Paid \$260	
Elen Lamar Johnson II	4-Sep-25	334748-24-FC & 343489-25-FC	\$600	11/18/2025		
Johnson & Family Life Celebration Center LLC	4-Sep-25	334714-24-FC & 343278-25-FC	\$1,600	11/18/2025		
Randy Straghn	4-Sep-25	343812-25-fo	\$600	11/18/2025	Paid in Full	
Straghn & Son Tri-City	4-Sep-25	33805-25-FC	\$1,000	11/18/2025	Paid in Full	
Cremations of Tampa LLC	8/4/2025	344117-25-FC	\$2,600	11/18/2025	Paid in Full	
Alan Orr	8/4/2025	344120-25-FC	\$1,750	11/18/2025	Paid in Full	
Travis Gibson	7-Aug-25	318203-25-FC	\$600	4/14/2025		
Travis Gibson	7-Aug-25	318828-25-FC	\$5,000	4/14/2025		
Travis Gibson	7-Aug-25	318768-25-FC	\$2,600	4/14/2025		
Richard Mengeling	8/7/2025	258809-20-FC	\$600	11/17/2025	Paid in Full	
Charles Chestnut IV	8/7/2025	334938-24-FC & 348917-25-FC	\$4,000	11/17/2025		
Michael Bowden	8/7/2025	344269-25-FC	\$1,000	11/17/2025	Paid in Full	
Soobee-Combs Crematory	8/7/2025	344357-25-FC	\$1,000	11/17/2025	Paid in Full	
Westside Funeral Home Inc.	8/7/2025	328217-24-FC	\$1,600	11/17/2025	Paid in Full	
George Woodie	8/7/2025	328221-24-FC	\$1,600	11/17/2025	Paid in Full	
Jerry Naokashi	28-Jun-25	311822-25-FC	\$1,600	11/10/2025	Paid in Full	
Sarah Noble	28-Jun-25	334762-24-FC	\$2,000	11/10/2025	Paid in Full	
Glonda Castillo	28-Jun-25	333147-24-FC & 333151-24-FC	\$1,250	10-Nov-25		
Integrity Funeral Services of Tampa FL, Inc.	28-Jun-25	333148-24-FC & 333149-24-FC	\$1,250	10-Nov-25		
Roderick Stevens	28-May-25	338272-25-FC	\$1,750	18-Aug-25		
D A Jackson Funeral Home	28-May-25	338271-25-FC	\$5,600	18-Aug-25		
Melinda Mezzelina Jackson	5/1/2025	319874-25-FC & 319877-25-FC	\$4,000 + \$2,500	18-Aug-25		Suspended until fines are paid
Donna Summerour McRae	5/1/2025	325280-24-FC	\$2,000	18-Aug-25		Sent to OGC
Ruben Rojas	8-03-25	320710-25-FC	\$8,000	6-05-25		Suspended until fines are paid
Geronimo Mens Jr.	2/8/2025	311861-25-FC	\$2,000	3/31/2025		Sent to OGC
Ronald Dolinar	1/2/2025	325266-24-FC	\$1,600	13-08-25		Sent to OGC

CS 12-22-25

R. Chair's Report (Verbal)

Ms. Simon – Chair Peeples?

Chair Peeples – Thank you, Ms. Simon. I just want to say thank you to everybody for participating today and being well prepared for the meeting. And Happy New Year to everyone. Ms. Aikens, thank you for stepping in for Ms. Munson today. We appreciate your participation. Also, the meeting in February will be in person in Tallahassee, and I know the Division team always encourages applicants and Respondents in those representing entities to be either on the call or in the meeting. It would be great if they would because it helps us make an informed decision and I know I get a positive from everybody. So, thank you all for all you're doing. I appreciate you all. Ms. Simon?

**S. Office of Attorney General's Report
(1) Attorney General's Rules Report (Informational)**

Ms. Simon – Ms. Aikens?

Ms. Aikens – Thank you and it's been a pleasure to cover this meeting for Ms. Munson. Before you, is a rules report. This Board does not have any rules and the rulemaking process. So, information only.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, ma'am.

**BOARD OF FUNERAL, CEMETERY, AND CONSUMER SERVICES RULES REPORT
JANUARY 2026**

Rule Number	Rule Title	Date Rule Language Approved by Board	Date Sent to OFARR	Rule Development Published	Notice Published	Adopted	Effective

There are currently no rules in the rulemaking process.

T. Public Comments (Verbal)

Ms. Simon – Does anybody have any public comment for this meeting? Hearing no response, Madam Chair?

Chair Peeples – Thank you, ma'am.

U. Administrative Report as December 22, 2025

A.	New Cemetery Applications	0
	Recommended for Approval	0
	Pending	0
B.	Cemetery Acquisition Applications	0
	Recommended for Approval	0
	Pending	0

C.	Preneed License Applications	0
	Active Preneed Licenses	321
	Presented to the Board at this Meeting	1
	Pending	2
D.	Preneed License Branch Applications	1
	Active Preneed License Branches	388
	Recommended for Approval	0
	Pending	1
E.	Preneed Sales Agent Applications	26
	Active Sales Agents	3,651
	Recommended for Approval	12
	Temporary Licenses Issued Pending Permanent	14
F.	Monument Establishment Applications	8
	Active Monument Establishments	66
	Pending	8
G.	Broker of Burial Rights Applications	0
	Active Brokers of Burial Rights	22
	Pending	0
H.	Exempt Cemetery Reports	0
	Active Exempt Cemeteries	51
	Pending	0
I.	New Establishment Applications	7
	Pending	0
	Completed	7
J.	New Individual Applications	8
	Pending	0
	Completed	0
K.	Request for Training Facility Applications	2
	Pending	0
	Completed	2
L.	Request for Continuing Education Providers and Courses	30
	Pending	0
	Completed	30
M.	Initial Inspections	4
	Completed	4
N.	Inspections	109
	Completed	109
O.	Initial Licenses Issued	7
	Renewal Licenses	104

V. **Disciplinary Report**

Notices of Non-Compliance Issued Since Last Meeting (December 4, 2025)	0
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W. **Upcoming Meeting(s)**

- (1) *February 5th (In-Person – Tallahassee - Department of Revenue Capital Circle Office Center)*
- (2) *March 5th (Videoconference)*
- (3) *April 2nd (Videoconference)*
- (4) *May 7th (Videoconference)*
- (5) *June 25th (Videoconference)*
- (6) *July 23rd (In-Person – Aventura – FCCFA Annual Conference)*
- (7) *September 3rd (Videoconference)*
- (8) *October 8th (Videoconference)*
- (9) *November 5th (Videoconference)*
- (10) *December 3rd (Videoconference)*

X. **Adjournment**

Chair Peebles – It is 12:44 and I will call this meeting adjourned. Thank you, folks. Bye-bye.

Ms. Simon – Thank you, Board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44.