

The following minutes are draft minutes which are subject to revision and which have not yet been adopted by the Board.

The **Connecticut Board of Examiners of Embalmers and Funeral Directors** held a meeting on December 20, 2022.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Darrell L. McClam, Embalmer, Chairman
Daniel Jowdy, Embalmer
Agnes Pier (Public Member) resigning in 2023
Edgar Rodriguez, Embalmer at 9:24 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Alfreda Gaither, Hearing Officer
Robert Binkowski, Inspector, DPH
Stephen Carragher

Guest: Nicole Paquette
Jesse Gomes
Michael Dugan

The meeting convened at 9:08 a.m. All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS.

I. OPEN FORUM

The Board discussed why the ME's office has now been staffed with security and whether it is necessary or not.

Mr. Jowdy reported that he attended a meeting at the Catholic church to determine if there were any concerns. Mr. Jowdy reported there were no concerns that the actions sought by the Catholic church would impact funeral homes.

II. MINUTES

The September 26, 2022 minutes were reviewed and approved with all in favor on a motion by Mr. Jowdy, seconded by Ms. Pier.

III. OFFICE OF LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Wayne T. Mohrein, Embalmer – Petition No. 2022-693

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented a Modified Consent Order in the matter of Wayne T. Morhrein, Embalmer.

Respondent was not present and was not represented. Respondent accepted the Modified Consent Order.

Mr. Jowdy made a motion, seconded by Agnes Piers, to approve the Modified Consent Order which changes the urine screens from twice monthly to weekly. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

Mr. Binkowski reported that Larson Funeral Home in Bridgeport has been purchased and is closed for renovations. Mr. Binkowski reported there was a problem with funeral homes and

towns accessing the new ME office's software with obtaining cremation certificates and permits. It was discovered that some funeral homes were not paying for the cremation permits. The funeral homes will be asked to pay for these outstanding fees.

Mr. Binkowski has an inspection for a new funeral home in Lakeville.

V. NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed having R.J. Fitch added as a practical examiner. The Board agreed that they would like an opportunity to review Mr. Fitch's credentials. Mr. Jowdy will reach out to Mr. Fitch and this will be tabled for the next meeting.

The Board discussed modifying the classes required for a funeral director license. The Board has vetted this topic in the past.

Mr. Carragher reported that there are already separate licenses for funeral directors and embalmers. However, both licenses require a degree in mortuary science from an accredited program, as well as passing the arts and science components of the National Board examination. DPH discussed this with the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association. The CFDA proposed that in order to obtain a funeral director's license only, a person would need to be a graduate of a mortuary science program and only be required to pass the science portion of the National Board exam. Then the individual would only be required to do an apprenticeship under a funeral director and not an embalmer. DPH would support the CFDA's proposed change to the examination requirements. The Board and DPH have the authority under statute to establish the educational and examination requirements. The current requirements were voted on by the Board in 2015. If the Board wished to change the educational requirements, DPH would have to review that further.

Mr. McClam suggested that the Board work with the legislators and DPH to get this issue moving forward.

IV. OTHER DISCUSSION

The Board discussed and agreed to the proposed meeting dates of March 7th, June 8th, September 12, and December 19, 2023.

Ms. Pier was thanked for her years of service on the Board.

Mr. Rodriguez raised the issue that there is a disconnect with the public on what the funeral homes have control over regarding third parties such as cemeteries. The funeral homes are being put in the middle. The Board discussed potential solutions.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at **10:19 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Darrell L. McClam - Chairman
Board of Examiners of Embalmers and Funeral Directors