

Board of Examiners of Embalmers & Funeral Directors

DATE: June 8, 2023

CALL TO ORDER TIME: 9:10 a.m.

LOCATION: Via Microsoft TEAMS

Regular Meeting of June 8, 2023

Name	Member	Present (Y/N)	DPH STAFF	Present (Y/N)
Darrell L. McClam, Embalmer, Chairman		yes	Alfreda Gaither, Legal Counsel to the Board	yes
Edgar Rodriguez, Embalmer		yes	Dianne Bertucio, Interim Board Liaison	yes
Daniel Jowdy, Embalmer		yes	Bob Binkowski, Inspector	yes
Jesse Gomes, Embalmer		yes	Craig Sullivan, Staff Attorney	yes
John Hatfield, CT Funeral Directors Assoc	guest	yes		
John Casey, CT Funeral Directors Assoc	guest	yes		

CHAIR UPDATES:

The Chair led a discussion regarding the adversarial relationship between cemeteries and funeral directors who are not in a contract with the cemeteries. The families are in a contract with the cemetery staff. Objections regarding cemeteries assertion of authority over the funeral homes; lack of state oversight; cemeteries are not under the funeral directors' jurisdiction; cemeteries requiring funeral directors to cover overtime costs, damages not caused by the funeral directors.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

MINUTES:

Daniel Jowdy moved and Edgar Rodriguez seconded the motion to vacate the 12/20/2022 minutes and approve the revised 12/20/2022 minutes that are attached to the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

Edgar Rodriguez moved and Daniel Jowdy seconded the motion to approve the March 7, 2023 minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob Binkowski reported that there was a change in management in the Funeral Alkaline Hydrolysis firm which is not State regulated versus cremations which are regulated.

Knapp Funeral Home in Greenwich, CT has changed management (Matt Murphy sold the business to Vinny Graziano) and relocated the business.

Lester Gee sold the Lester Gee funeral home on Fairfield Avenue in Bridgeport to Christopher, his nephew.

Daniel Jowdy moved and Edgar Rodriguez seconded the motion to readdress the qualifications of the proposed single funeral director's license. The motion proposes requirements of an associate's degree from an accredited school; 32 hours of advanced training of mortuary science, including a minimum of 12 units of Arts, which includes courses on the applicable statutes and regulations. Embalming and science courses will not be required. This license will be separate from the Embalmers license. The single funeral director's licensee will not be licensed to perform any embalming. The motion was unanimously approved.

Due to death and illness in his family, R. J. Fitch is no longer interested in becoming a practical examiner.

ADJOURNMENT:

Edgar Rodriguez moved and Daniel Jowdy seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 9:54 a.m.

Darrell L. McClam
Chairman