

*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 March 7, 2023.

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Darrell L. McClam, Embalmer, Chairman  
Daniel Jowdy, Embalmer  
Edgar Rodriguez, Embalmer

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Alfreda Gaither, Hearing Officer  
Stacy Schulman, Hearing Officer  
Dianne Bertuccio, Board Liaison  
Jennifer Zakrzewski, Board Liaison  
Chris Andresen, DPH at 9:29 a.m.  
Robert Binkowski, Inspector, DPH  
Sean Seepersad, OHE

Guest: Nicole Paquette  
John Cascio  
Jesse Gomes  
Laura Soll  
Amanda Portelance  
Ed She  
Melissa Meelin-Miles  
Laura Soll  
Jonathan Green  
Liz Connelly  
Meaghan Christinat  
Michael S. Dugan  
Guest 860-xxx-9420

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The meeting convened at 9:12 a.m. All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS.

**I. OPEN FORUM**

**II. MINUTES**

The December 20, 2022 minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved with all in favor on a motion by Mr. Jowdy, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

The Board discussed the issues surrounding the requirement for students to pass the National Board Exam. The Board unanimously agreed to pursue exploring the current examination requirements and to make recommendations to DPH upon motion by Mr. Jowdy, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez.

Attorney Schulman advised that DPH could arrange for someone from DPH to appear at a future meeting to discuss the program requirements.

**IV. FUNERAL DIRECTOR EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Board discussed the course requirements for funeral directors and the need to potentially remove courses that are not necessary to be licensed as a funeral director. The Board envisions separate licensure for embalming and funeral directors where someone could hold one license or two.

Sean Seepersad from the Office of Higher Education discussed the role of OHE and how curriculums are determined.

**V. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES**

Robert Binkowski reported on the number of funeral homes that are subject to complaints, lapse of licensure and/or have closed. He also reported that Robinson & Wright was sold to another company.

Chris Andresen advised that the legislature is proposing disposal of human remains by terramation under House Bill 6485.

The Board discussed the need to for Connecticut to have a reciprocity agreement with New Jersey. Attorney Gaither is going to work on the agreement.

The Board discussed the need to add a public member to the Board. Chair McClam will work on this issue.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**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**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Present (Y/N)</b>	<b>DPH STAFF</b>	<b>Present (Y/N)</b>
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

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Examiners of Embalmers & Funeral Directors**

**DATE: September 12, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER TIME: 9:04 a.m.**

**LOCATION: Via Microsoft TEAMS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Present (Y/N)</b>	<b>DPH STAFF</b>	<b>Present (Y/N)</b>
Darrell L. McClam, Embalmer, Chairman		Y	Alfreda Gaither, Legal Counsel to the Board	Y
Edgar Rodriguez, Embalmer		Y	Tyra Anne Peluso, Board Liaison	Y
Daniel Jowdy, Embalmer		Y	Bob Binkowski, Inspector	Y

**MINUTES:**

Edgar Rodriguez moved to approve the June 8, 2023, minutes with a revision to note the unanimous approval of the motion in the last paragraph under New Business. Daniel Jowdy seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Bob Binkowski briefly reported on funeral home additions and closings.

Bob Binkowski stated that the department will be looking into regulations related to alkaline hydrolysis including but not limited to: Permitting; Licensing; and Inspections.

Daniel Jowdy moved to grant Kerry Byrne Smith (currently approved as an apprentice) a part time apprenticeship at Carmon's Funeral Home. Edgar Rodriguez seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Edgar Rodriguez moved to allow Daniel Jowdy permission to discuss social services with the CEO's of Connecticut Funeral Directors. Darrell McClam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**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

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Examiners of Embalmers & Funeral Directors**  
**DATE: December 19, 2023**  
**LOCATION: Via Microsoft TEAMS**

Name	Member	Present (Y/N)	DPH STAFF	Present (Y/N)
Darrell L. McClam, Embalmer, Chairman		Y	Aden Baume, Legal Counsel to the Board	Y
Edgar Rodriguez, Embalmer		Y	Tyra Anne Peluso, Board Liaison	Y
Daniel Jowdy, Embalmer		N	Chris Andresen, DPH	Y
			Frank Manna, DPH	Y
			Steve Carragher, DPH	Y
			Adam Skowera	Y
			Meaghan Christinat	Y

**CALL TO ORDER** 9:35a.m.

Daniel Jowdy moved to add two items to the agenda (Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS) and 2024 Income Eligible Funding.) Darrell McClam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MINUTES:**

Daniel Jowdy moved to approve the September 12, 2023, minutes, as presented. Darrell McClam seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**CHAIR UPDATE:**

- 2024 Regular Meeting Dates, commencing at 9am:  
 March 5, 2024  
 June 4, 2024  
 September 10, 2024  
 December 17, 2024

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Funeral Director Only License: Training and Exam Requirements. Chris Andresen, DPH, provided an overview including the training and exam requirements. Daniel Jowdy discussed a program proposal to be presented at the March 5, 2024, meeting. No votes were taken.
- Recommendation for Reinstatement of Kurt Johansen. Frank Manna, DPH, recommended reinstatement of Kurt Johansen’s license. Darrell McClam moved for reinstatement. Daniel Jowdy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- EDRS. Daniel Jowdy stated that as of January 1, 2024, system updates will allow out of state updates to the system. No votes were taken.
- 2024 Income Eligible Funding. Daniel Jowdy stated the 2024 funding for income eligible households will increase from \$1350 to \$1800. No votes were taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Darrell McClam moved, and Daniel Jowdy seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 10:04 a.m.

Darrell L. McClam  
 Chairman