OKLAHOMA FUNERAL BOARD

3700 North Classen Blvd, Suite 175 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

MEETING PLACE: Office of Chief Medical Examiner OKC, 921 N.E. 23rd Street Conference Room 1st Floor Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

DATE & TIME: February 8, 2024 10:00AM

A copy of this notice of meeting and agenda has been posted in a prominent location at the office of the Oklahoma Funeral Board, 3700 North Classen Blvd Suite 175, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on February 6, 2024 at 9:30AM. A copy of this agenda is available on the Funeral Board website at www.oklahoma.gov/funeral

If you plan to attend a Board meeting for Continuing Education credit and would like a rough estimate of the length of time Board staff estimates the meeting might last, please email your request to <u>info@funeral.ok.gov</u>.

*** This symbol denotes the application and/or applicant is not in compliance with 235:1-1-2 (c) (14 day Rule)

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The Board may discuss, vote to approve, vote to disapprove, vote to table, change the sequence of any agenda item, or decide not to discuss any item on the agenda.

- 1. Roll Call
- 2. Approval of the January 11, 2024 Regular Board meeting minutes
- 3. Oklahoma Funeral Director Association Update from a Representative of OKFDA, with possible discussion
- 4. Oklahoma Insurance Department Update from a Representative of OID, with possible discussion
- 5. Review complaints with possible vote for probable cause or other action
 - 24-09 Pre-need Issues
 - 24-22 Next of Kin Issues
 - 24-25 Unprofessional Funeral Home Staff
 - 24-27 Next of Kin Issues

6. Matters for consideration: Administrative Hearing, Consent Order, or Scheduling Order

At the conclusion of the parties' presentation and any questions or public discussion by the Board, the Board may in each complaint case:

- i. consider and vote on motion(s) to conduct executive session(s) pursuant to 25 O.S.2011, Section 307(B)(8) to engage in deliberations or rendering a final or intermediate decision in an individual proceeding pursuant to Article II of the Administrative Procedures Act;
- ii. if an executive session is held, designate a person to keep written minutes of the executive session;
- iii. consider and vote on motion(s) to exit executive session and return to open meeting; and
- iv. consider and vote on motion(s) regarding possible action to be taken regarding matter discussed in executive session.
 - 6A. Complaint 23-16 Christopher Harrison, Funeral Director and Embalmer. Member Roberts needs to recuse.
 - 6B. Complaint 23-60 Luginbuel Funeral Home, Vinita, Legacy Funeral Holding of Oklahoma LLC, Owner, Joseph Faulkner, FDIC, Colin Kirk, Apprentice. Member Corbett needs to recuse.
 - 6C. Complaint 23-72 Christopher Harrison, Funeral Director and Embalmer. Member Roberts needs to recuse.
 - 6D. Complaint 24-08 Christopher Harrison, Funeral Director and Embalmer. Member Roberts needs to recuse.
 - 6E. Complaint 24-20 Christopher Harrison, Funeral Director and Embalmer. Member Roberts needs to recuse.
- 7. Vote to affirm or disaffirm the issuance of the following licenses, registrations, certificates, dissolution or other action

A. Apprenticeship (Original)

- 1. Ainsley Butterfield, Plano, Smith & Kernke, OKC
- 2. Lilly Close, Copan, Stumpf FH, Bartlesville
- 3. Alexander Marshall, Alva, Marshall FH, Alva
- 4. Laci Duffy, Enid, Anderson Burris, Enid

B. Apprenticeship (1st extension)

- 1. Zachary Graves, Stilwell, Roberts-Reed-Culver, Stilwell
- 2. Shealyn Wilds, Stilwell, Roberts-Reed-Culver, Stilwell
- 3. Colton Morgan, Duncan, Whitt FH, Duncan
- 4. Rylan McPeak, Idabel, Miller & Miller FH, Hugo
- 5. Aidan Parker, OKC, Chapel Hill, OKC
- 6. Dennis Baker, Kingfisher, Sanders FS, Kingfisher, (FD Only)
- 7. Philip Seeley, Stillwater, Strode FH, Stillwater
- 8. Lorna Schofield, Park Hill, Reed-Culver FH, Tahlequah

C. Apprenticeship (2nd Extension)

- 1. Kenslie Villoni, Tulsa, Floral Haven FH, Broken Arrow
- 2. Breece Low, Edmond, Baggerley FH, Edmond
- 3. Caitlin Snell, Rose, Shipman's, Pryor, (FD Only)
- 4. Lewis Robinson III, Guthrie, Community, Guthrie

D. Apprenticeship (3rd Extension)

- 1. Perry Simpson, Noble, McMahans FH, Noble
- E. Funeral Director and/or Embalmer (Reciprocal)

- 1. Dylan DeStefano, Virginia
- 2. Garrett Lundberg, Arkansas

F. Funeral Director and/or Embalmer (Original)

- 1. Lawanda Colbert, Midwest City (FD Only)
- 2. Amy Kinsey, Pryor
- 3. Karley Page, Muskogee
- 4. Harlea Walker, Broken Arrow
- 5. Kristen Wajda, Moore (FD Only)

G. Establishments

- Moore Funeral & Cremation, Moore, request to change FDIC from Michael Kelly to Megan Dorman
- 2. Whinery-Huddleston FS, Lawton, request to change FDIC from Amber Woommavovah to Randilyn Walker
- 3. Community FH, Guthrie, request to change FDIC from Monica Kroier to Lyndel Hamilton
- 4. Affordable Cremation, OKC, request to change FDIC from Monica Kroier to Lyndel Hamilton
- 5. Reynolds & Adamscrest FS, Tulsa, request to change FDIC from Nick Reynolds to Scott Holz
- 6. Fallon Mortuary, OKC, request to close establishment

H. Crematories

- Great Plains Cremation Service, Lawton, Lawton, request to change FDIC from Amber Woommavovah to Randilyn Walker
- 8. New Business. Any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting the agenda or any revised agenda. 25 O.S. Section 311.9.
- 9. Executive Director's Report

- A. Agency Financial Update
- B. 2024 Legislative Session Bills- HB1074, HB2671, HB2959, HB2961, SB356, SB599, SB957, SB1444, SB1602, SB1637, SB1764
- 10. Strategic Planning: Discussion and possible action regarding change of Board Statutes or Board Rules:
 - A. Board discussion for Updating Cremation Statutes and Rules
 - B. Committee report, committee discussion, and Board discussion for Funeral Director Assistant License
- 11. Adjournment

Tyler Stiles, MBA Executive Director

The next regular meeting of the Oklahoma Funeral Board will be held: March 14, 2024. Office of Chief Medical Examiner –OKC 921 N.E. 23rd Street Conference Room – 1st Floor Oklahoma City, OK 73105.



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

OKLAHOMA FUNERAL BOARD 3700 N. Classen, Suite 175 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

January 11, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Coble
Darin Corbett
Glenn Dunn
John Davenport
Joe Highberger
Brent Matherly
Jim Roberts

STAFF
Rochelle Covington
Tyler Stiles

Kylie Cooper, AAG Liz Stevens, AAG

MEETING PLACE: MEETING PLACE:

If attending in person at the physical location: Office of Chief Medical Examiner OKC, 921 N.E. 23rd Street Conference Room 1st Floor Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

A copy of this notice of meeting and agenda has been posted in a prominent location at the office of the Oklahoma Funeral Board, 3700 North Classen Blvd Suite 175, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on January 8, 2024 at 9:30AM. A copy of this agenda is available on the Funeral Board website at www.ok.gov/funeral

President Roberts called the meeting to order at 10AM. Members Corbett, Davenport, Dunn, Highberger, Matherly, and Roberts were present. Member Coble was absent. A quorum was always present.

Motion by Highberger second by Davenport to approve the December 14, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Dustin Pierce with OKFDA provided the following update: District meetings will be January 23-25 and January 30-February 1 and will have 1 hour of ethics. The convention will be March 11-13, 2024 and will have 8 hours of CE. A women's conference will be held in July.

Lorie Jones with the Insurance Dept. provided the following update: if funeral homes have insurance assignments or trusts, they need to submit their report by March 15. Incomplete reports are considered as "Not Received". Contact Gloria Light with any questions. Gloria.light@oid.ok.gov

Motion by Roberts second by Highberger to find probable cause on complaint 24-19 regarding Vendor Payment Issues. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Matherly second by Dunn to dismiss complaint 24-21 regarding Vendor Payment Issues with a letter of concern. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Highberger second by Davenport to find probable cause on complaint 24-26 regarding Vendor Payment Issues with a letter of concern. The motion passed unanimously.

Regarding the matters for consideration: Consent Order or Scheduling Order: Complaint 23-56 Holt Funeral & Cremation, Poteau, Holt Funeral & Cremation LLC, owner, Tracy Holt, Poteau, FDIC. The prosecution was represented by Kylie Cooper, AAG. Liz Stevens, AAG, was the Board's legal advisor. Members Corbett, Davenport, Dunn, Matherly, and Roberts heard the case. Member Highberger was recused from the case and he left the room.

After the presentation of the agreed upon Consent Order, motion by Roberts second by Matherly to accept the consent order. The consent order consisted of the following: The agreed violations were: The agreed violations were: misleading advertising, violation of the Funeral Service Licensing Act, and Rules of the Board. The terms consisted of the following: Administrative Penalty of \$1,500, 6 hours of additional CE, \$750 costs. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Highberger reentered the room.

Motion by Roberts second by Highberger to approve the following: Apprenticeship (Original) Hatton Allen, Hobart, Peoples Cooperative, Lone Wolf; Megan Morton, Hobart, Peoples Cooperative, Lone Wolf; Wesley White, Poteau, Holt Funeral, Poteau. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Matherly second by Highberger to table the following: Apprenticeship (1st extension) Zachary Graves, Stilwell, Roberts-Reed-Culver, Stilwell. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Matherly second by Highberger to approve the following: Apprenticeship (1st extension) Brittany Brown, Moore, Bill Eisenhour FH, OKC; Harlea Walker, Broken Arrow, Rice FS, Claremore. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Matherly second by Highberger to table the following: Apprenticeship (1st extension) Shealyn Wilds, Stilwell, Roberts-Reed-Culver, Stilwell. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Matherly second by Highberger to approve the following: Apprenticeship (2nd Extension). Colin Kirk, Vinita, Luginbuel FH, Vinita; Deanna Evans, Dewey, Davis Family FH, Bartlesville(FD Only); Brennon Goforth, Edmond, Crawford, Edmond. The motion passed unanimously

Motion by Matherly second by Highberger to approve the following: Apprenticeship (3rd Extension). Thomas Applegate, Wagoner, Mallett FH, Wagoner. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Roberts second by Highberger to table the following: Funeral Director and/or Embalmer (Reciprocal), Dylan DeStafano, Virginia. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Matherly second by Highberger to approve the following: Funeral Director and/or Embalmer (Original) Jonathan Broce, Bethany (FD Only). The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Matherly second by Highberger to table the following: Funeral Director and/or Embalmer (Original) Lawanda Colbert, Midwest City (FD Only). The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Matherly second by Highberger to approve the following: Funeral Director and/or Embalmer (Original) Andrew Haire, Vinita. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Matherly second by Highberger to table the following: Funeral Director and/or Embalmer (Original) Amy Kinsey, Pryor; Karley Page, Muskogee. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Matherly second by Highberger to approve the following: Establishments, Lanman Funeral Home, Inc. Helena, request to change FDIC from Irene Lanman to Kacey Ferguson; Shaw Funeral Home, Arnett, request to change FDIC from Scott Ferrell to Kelton Nance; Shaw Funeral Home, Shattuck, request to change FDIC from Lucas Faires to Kelton Nance; Palmer Marler FH, Yale, request to close establishment; Palmer Marler FH, Oilton, request to change FDIC from Riley Castor to Dustin Nugent; Palmer Marler FH, Cushing, request to change FDIC from Riley Castor to Dustin Nugent; Brown-Winters FH, Afton, request to change FDIC from Jeffery Brown to Michael Doner; Martin-Dugger FH, Sayre, request to close establishment; Martin-Dugger FH, Cheyenne, request to close establishment; Mark Griffith, Sand Springs, request to close establishment; Henson-Novak FH, Texhoma, request to close establishment; Community Care Funeral Service, Okemah, new establishment, Community Care Funeral Service LLC, Okemah, Owner, Mark Garrett, FDIC. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Matherly second by Highberger to approve the following: Crematories, Henson-Novak Cremation Center, Boise City, new crematory, Miller Funeral Homes, LLC, Kelly Miller, FDIC; Brown-Winters Crematory, Miami, request to change FDIC from Michael Doner to Jeffery Brown; Cremation Care Centers, Glenpool request to close crematory. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no new business

Agency Financial update- Mr. Stiles reported gross receipts for December 2023 to be \$245,729.73 with \$24,422.97 going to the State of Oklahoma general fund. The expenses for the same timeframe totaled \$39,641.29 and net income after expenses totaled \$181,665.47. Most establishments renewed during the last week of the year and it took awhile to process those renewals so that will reflect on next months' financials.

Strategic Planning: Discussion and possible action regarding change of Board Statutes or Board Rules: Board discussion for Updating Cremation Statutes and Rules. The committee plans to provide an update in February.

The FD Assistant committee met and will meet again in January and February to further discuss the particulars of the assistant license and update the Board in March.

The casket bill committee met with the Senate author and Mr. Highberger met with Mr. Dighton of OKFDA. OKFDA plans to fight the casket bill. Mr. Highberger wants to thank those that served on the committee: Kyra Geil, Jeremy Sparks, Glenn Dunn, and Phillip Hart. Motion by Corbett second by Matherly to remain neutral on their stance on this bill. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Highberger second by Davenport to adjourn the meeting at 10:16AM. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Roberts Oklahoma Funeral Board President

BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA FUNERAL BOARD STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT AGAINST:

Christopher Harrison

Licenses:

2927FD and 3308EM,

Address:

1300 North Lottie Ave

Oklahoma City, OK 73117

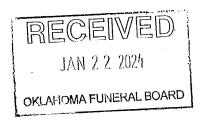
A Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer and the former Funeral Director in Charge

at

HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES, LLC,

Complaint No. 23-16

Respondent.



COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF HEARING

The State of Oklahoma, *ex rel.*, Oklahoma Funeral Board ("Board"), by and through Assistant Attorney General Kylie Cooper, files this Complaint and Notice of Hearing, alleging that the Respondent, CHRISTOPHER HARRISON has violated provisions of the State Funeral Services Licensing Act, 59 O.S. § 395.1 *et seq.* (the

"Act"), and Rules of the Board, Oklahoma Administrative Code ("O.A.C.") Section 235:10-1-1 et seq. (the "Rules"), in the manner set forth below:

JURISDICTION

- 1. Respondent HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES ("Funeral Home") was formerly licensed by the Board, establishment license number 1659ES, and was located at 1300 North Lottie Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73117.
- 2. Respondent CHRISTOPHER HARRISON ("Funeral Director in Charge" or "FDIC") is licensed by the Board as a funeral director and embalmer, license numbers 2927FD and 3308EM, and at all relevant times was the Funeral Director in Charge at Funeral Home.
- 3. Respondent HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES LLC ("Owner") is, and at all relevant times was, the owner of record for Funeral Home. Upon information and belief, Respondent CHRISTOPHER HARRISON is the owner and registered agent for Respondent HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES LLC.
- 4. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondents pursuant to 59 O.S. §§ 396.2a(9) and (11). See also 59 O.S. § 396.12f(F).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 5. On or about September 21, 2022, Board staff received a letter from Jackson Brown at Stems & Stones Cemetery Services, stating that Heritage Funeral Home had a past due balance of \$2,747.73. Mr. Brown included copies of invoices.
- 6. On September 21, 2022, Board staff filed a complaint with the Board, alleging a violation of OAC 235:10-7-2(9), failure to discharge a financial obligation within 90 days. The Board

provided Respondents with the Notice of Complaint via certified letter, which was mailed on the date the complaint was filed.

- 7. On October 26, 2022, Respondents filed their response to Complaint 23-16 with the Board. Respondents state that they do not have any invoices from Jackson Brown. They further state that they've only spoken with Tom Brown at Stems & Stones and allege they do not have invoices.
- 8. By public vote during the meeting on July 13, 2023, the Board found probable cause to file a formal complaint against Respondents for the violations alleged herein.
- 9. The prosecution has sufficient evidence which, if presented to the Board at an evidentiary hearing, would constitute clear and convincing evidence of the alleged violations.

ALLEGED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 10. Respondents violated O.A.C. 235:10-3-2(9) by failing to pay a vendor or third party obligation within 90 days.
- 11. FDIC is "responsible for the legal and ethical operation of the [Funeral Home] and is accountable to the Board." 59 O.S. § 396.2(12). Therefore, Respondent CHRISTOPHER HARRISON, as the Funeral Director in Charge of the Funeral Home is also liable for the above violations.
- 12. Due to the above violations, Respondents are subject to disciplinary action by the Board. See 59 O.S. §§ 396.2a(9) and (11); id. at §§ 396.12c(A)(5) and (8); id. at § 396.12d; id. at § 396.12e.

AUTHORIZED PENALTIES

13. The Board is authorized to impose any of the following penalties for violations of the Act or Rules: (1) denial, revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal of license or certificate of

apprenticeship; (2) administrative fines up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) per series of related violations¹; (3) injunctive proceedings; and (4) other disciplinary action. 59 O.S. §§ 396.12c(5) and (8); *id.* at § 396.12c; *id.* at § 396.12d; *id.* at § 396.12e.

14. Further, the Board is authorized to "impose . . . as a condition of any adverse disciplinary action, the payment of costs expended by the Board in investigating and prosecuting the violation." 59 O.S. § 396.12e(B). Costs may include, but are not limited to, "staff time, salary and travel expenses, [and] witness fees and attorney fees." *Id*.

15. In lieu of prosecution, Respondents "may elect to surrender the license." *Id.* at § 396.12e(D). However, should Respondents surrender their licenses, they "shall be forever barred from obtaining a reissuance of said license or certificate of apprenticeship." *Id.*

NOTICE OF HEARING

An EVIDENTARY HEARING will be held before the Board on FEBRUARY 8, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. Respondents may appear personally or through an attorney. If Respondents fail to appear, the hearing will be held in their absence. Respondents have the right to submit a written response, cross-examine witnesses, and present evidence on their behalf. See 75 O.S. §§ 309 and 310. If the Board decides, after considering all the evidence presented, that Respondents are in violation of any of the above-referenced laws, the Board may take any authorized disciplinary action it deems appropriate.

Instead of proceeding with the aforementioned hearing, the parties may present a JOINT

¹ When determining the amount of an administrative penalty, the Board shall consider, but not be limited to:

the nature, circumstances and gravity of the violation and, with respect to the person or entity found to have committed the violation, the degree of culpability, the effect on ability of the person or entity to continue to do business and any show of good faith in attempting to achieve compliance with the provisions of the Funeral Services Licensing Act.

PROPOSED CONSENT ORDER to the Board on the same date and time. See 75 O.S. § 309(E).

Respectfully submitted:

Kylie Cooper, OBA # 32758

Assistant Attorney General

Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General

313 NE 21st Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

kylie.cooper@oag.ok.gov

Attorney for Oklahoma Funeral Board

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 22 day of ______, 2024, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Complaint and Notice of Hearing was served either mailing by Certified Mail or by handing to a process server for service in person, as follows:

BY CERTIFIED MAIL:

Heritage Funeral Home and Cremation Services LLC 1300 North Lottie Ave Oklahoma City, OK 73117

Christopher Harrison 1300 North Lottie Ave Oklahoma City, OK 7317

Tyler Stiles, MBA
Executive Director

BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA FUNERAL BOARD STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT AGAINST:

LUGINBUEL FUNERAL HOME

A Licensed Funeral Establishment, Establishment License # 1961ES 332 N Scraper Vinita, OK 74301

owned by:

LEGACY FUNERAL HOLDING OF OKLAHOMA LLC

3103 Sackett Street Houston, TX 77098

COLIN KIRK

License:

6192AP

Address:

191 N. 4 Mile Rd.

Fort Gibson, OK 74434

JOSEPH FAULKNER

Licenses:

2700FD & 3083EM

Address:

332 N. Scraper

Vinita, OK 74301

A Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer and the Funeral Director in Charge at

LUGINBUEL FUNERAL HOME,

Respondents.

Complaint No. 23-60



NOV 2 7 2023

OKLAHOMA FUNERAL BOARD

COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF HEARING

The State of Oklahoma, ex rel., Oklahoma Funeral Board ("Board"), by and through Assistant Attorney General Kylie Cooper, files this Complaint and Notice of Hearing, alleging that the Respondents, LUGINBUEL FUNERAL HOME, LEGACY FUNERAL HOLDING OF OKALHOMA LLC., JOSEPH FAULKNER, AND COLIN KIRK have violated provisions of the

State Funeral Services Licensing Act, 59 O.S. § 395.1 *et seq*. (the "Act"), and Rules of the Board, Oklahoma Administrative Code ("O.A.C.") Section 235:10-1-1 *et seq*. (the "Rules"), in the manner set forth below:

JURISDICTION

- 1. Respondent Luginbuel Funeral Home ("Funeral Home") is licensed by the Board, establishment license number 1961ES, and is located at 332 N. Scraper, Vinita, OK 74301.
- 2. Respondent JOSEPH FAULKNER ("Funeral Director in Charge" or "FDIC") is licensed by the Board as a funeral director, license numbers 2700FD and 3083EM, and at all relevant times was the Funeral Director in Charge at Funeral Home.
- 3. Respondent LEGACY FUNERAL HOLDING OF OKLAHOMA LLC ("Owner") is, and at all relevant times was, the owner of record for Funeral Home.
- 4. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondents pursuant to 59 O.S. §§ 396.2a(9) and (11). See also 59 O.S. § 396.12f(F).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 5. On May 19th, 2023, during the course of an investigation, Board staff attended the funeral of decedent Rodney McGinnis. Throughout the funeral, licensed apprentice Colin Kirk acted as funeral director, officiated the funeral service, and confirmed that he was the funeral director to Board staff. There were no licensed funeral directors present at the funeral.
- 6. On May 22, 2023, Board staff filed a Complaint with the Board, alleging that Respondents were in violation of O.A.C. 235:10-7-2(6) for the practice of funeral directing by an individual not licensed as a funeral director.

- 7. Further, Board staff alleged that Respondents were in violation of O.A.C. 235:10-7-2(27) by aiding or abetting unlicensed practice.
- 8. On June 8, 2023, Respondents filed their response to Complaint 23-60. Respondents accepted responsibility for the alleged violation and stated that it was scheduling issue.
- 9. By public vote during the meeting on July 13, 2023, the Board found probable cause to file a formal complaint against Respondents for the violations alleged herein.
- 10. The prosecution has sufficient evidence which, if presented to the Board at an evidentiary hearing, would constitute clear and convincing evidence of the alleged violations.

ALLEGED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 11. Respondents violated O.A.C. 235:10-7-2(27) by directing a funeral before obtaining a license from the Oklahoma Funeral Board.
- 12. Respondents violated O.A.C. 235:10-7-2(1) by misrepresenting to Board staff that he was a licensed funeral director.
- 13. Further, Respondents also violated 235:10-7-2(27) by aiding and abetting an unlicensed person in the practice of funeral directing.
- 14. Due to the above violations, Respondents are subject to disciplinary action by the Board. See 59 O.S. §§ 396.2a(9) and (11); id. at §§ 396.12c(A)(5) and (8); id. at § 396.12d; id. at § 396.12e.

AUTHORIZED PENALTIES

15. The Board is authorized to impose any of the following penalties for violations of the Act or Rules: (1) denial, revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal of license or certificate of apprenticeship; (2) administrative fines up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) per series of related

violations¹; (3) injunctive proceedings; and (4) other disciplinary action. 59 O.S. §§ 396.12c(5) and (8); *id.* at § 396.12c; *id.* at § 396.12d; *id.* at § 396.12e.

16. Further, the Board is authorized to "impose . . . as a condition of any adverse disciplinary action, the payment of costs expended by the Board in investigating and prosecuting the violation." 59 O.S. § 396.12e(B). Costs may include, but are not limited to, "staff time, salary and travel expenses, [and] witness fees and attorney fees." *Id*.

17. In lieu of prosecution, Respondents "may elect to surrender the license." *Id.* at § 396.12e(D). However, should Respondents surrender their licenses, they "shall be forever barred from obtaining a reissuance of said license or certificate of apprenticeship." *Id.*

NOTICE OF HEARING

An EVIDENTARY HEARING will be held before the Board on December 14, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. Respondents may appear personally or through an attorney. If Respondents fail to appear, the hearing will be held in their absence. Respondents have the right to submit a written response, cross-examine witnesses, and present evidence on their behalf. See 75 O.S. §§ 309 and 310. If the Board decides, after considering all the evidence presented, that Respondents are in violation of any of the above-referenced laws, the Board may take any authorized disciplinary action it deems appropriate.

¹ When determining the amount of an administrative penalty, the Board shall consider, but not be limited to:

the nature, circumstances and gravity of the violation and, with respect to the person or entity found to have committed the violation, the degree of culpability, the effect on ability of the person or entity to continue to do business and any show of good faith in attempting to achieve compliance with the provisions of the Funeral Services Licensing Act.

Instead of proceeding with the aforementioned hearing, the parties may present a **JOINT PROPOSED CONSENT ORDER** to the Board on the same date and time. *See* 75 O.S. § 309(E).

Respectfully submitted:

Kylie Cooper, OBA # 32758

Assistant Attorney General

Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General

313 NE 21st Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

kylie.cooper@oag.ok.gov

Attorney for Oklahoma Funeral Board

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the <u>November</u>, 2023, a true and correct copy of the foregoing *Complaint and Notice of Hearing* was served either mailing by Certified Mail or by handing to a process server for service in person, as follows:

BY CERTIFIED MAIL:

Luginbuel Funeral Home 332 N. Scraper Vinita, OK 74301

Legacy Funeral Holding of Oklahoma LLC 3103 Sackett Street Houston, OK 77098

Joseph Faulkner 332 N. Scraper Vinita, OK 74301

Colin Kirk 191 N. 4 Mile Rd Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Tyler Stiles, MBA
Executive Director

Tul Star

BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA FUNERAL BOARD STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT AGAINST:

Christopher Harrison

Licenses:

2927FD and 3308EM,

Address:

1300 North Lottie Ave

Oklahoma City, OK 73117

A Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer and the former Funeral Director in Charge

at

HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES, LLC,

Complaint No. 23-72

Respondent.

RECEIVED

JAN 2 2 2024

OKLAHOMA FUNERAL BOARD

COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF HEARING

The State of Oklahoma, *ex rel.*, Oklahoma Funeral Board ("Board"), by and through Assistant Attorney General Kylie Cooper, files this Complaint and Notice of Hearing, alleging that the Respondent, CHRISTOPHER HARRISON, has violated provisions of the State Funeral Services Licensing Act, 59 O.S. § 395.1 *et seg.* (the

"Act"), and Rules of the Board, Oklahoma Administrative Code ("O.A.C.") Section 235:10-1-1 *et seq.* (the "Rules"), in the manner set forth below:

JURISDICTION

- 1. Respondent HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES ("Funeral Home") was formerly licensed by the Board, establishment license number 1659ES, and was located at 1300 North Lottie Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73117.
- 2. Respondent CHRISTOPHER HARRISON ("Funeral Director in Charge" or "FDIC") is licensed by the Board as a funeral director and embalmer, license numbers 2927FD and 3308EM, and at all relevant times was the Funeral Director in Charge at Funeral Home.
- 3. Respondent HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES LLC ("Owner") is, and at all relevant times was, the owner of record for Funeral Home. Upon information and belief, Respondent CHRISTOPHER HARRISON is the owner and registered agent for Respondent HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES LLC.
- 4. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondents pursuant to 59 O.S. §§ 396.2a(9) and (11). See also 59 O.S. § 396.12f(F).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 5. On or about June 16, 2023, Board staff received a complaint from Monarch Resources, stating that Heritage Funeral Home had a past due balance of \$175.38. Invoices were included.
- 6. On June 19, 2023, Board staff filed a complaint with the Board, alleging a violation of OAC 235:10-7-2(9), failure to discharge a financial obligation within 90 days. The Board provided Respondents with the Notice of Complaint via email.

- 7. On July 28, 2023, Respondents filed their response to Complaint 23-72 with the Board. Respondents state that the balance to Monarch Resources had been paid.
- 8. By public vote during the meeting on August 10, 2023, the Board found probable cause to file a formal complaint against Respondents for the violations alleged herein.
- 9. The prosecution has sufficient evidence which, if presented to the Board at an evidentiary hearing, would constitute clear and convincing evidence of the alleged violations.

ALLEGED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 10. Respondents violated O.A.C. 235:10-3-2(9) by failing to pay a vendor or third-party obligation within 90 days.
- 11. FDIC is "responsible for the legal and ethical operation of the [Funeral Home] and is accountable to the Board." 59 O.S. § 396.2(12). Therefore, Respondent CHRISTOPHER HARRISON, as the Funeral Director in Charge of the Funeral Home is also liable for the above violations.
- 12. Due to the above violations, Respondents are subject to disciplinary action by the Board. See 59 O.S. §§ 396.2a(9) and (11); id. at §§ 396.12c(A)(5) and (8); id. at § 396.12d; id. at § 396.12e.

AUTHORIZED PENALTIES

13. The Board is authorized to impose any of the following penalties for violations of the Act or Rules: (1) denial, revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal of license or certificate of apprenticeship; (2) administrative fines up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) per series of related

violations¹; (3) injunctive proceedings; and (4) other disciplinary action. 59 O.S. §§ 396.12c(5) and (8); *id.* at § 396.12c; *id.* at § 396.12d; *id.* at § 396.12e.

14. Further, the Board is authorized to "impose . . . as a condition of any adverse disciplinary action, the payment of costs expended by the Board in investigating and prosecuting the violation." 59 O.S. § 396.12e(B). Costs may include, but are not limited to, "staff time, salary and travel expenses, [and] witness fees and attorney fees." *Id*.

15. In lieu of prosecution, Respondents "may elect to surrender the license." *Id.* at § 396.12e(D). However, should Respondents surrender their licenses, they "shall be forever barred from obtaining a reissuance of said license or certificate of apprenticeship." *Id.*

NOTICE OF HEARING

An EVIDENTARY HEARING will be held before the Board on FEBRUARY 8, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. Respondents may appear personally or through an attorney. If Respondents fail to appear, the hearing will be held in their absence. Respondents have the right to submit a written response, cross-examine witnesses, and present evidence on their behalf. See 75 O.S. §§ 309 and 310. If the Board decides, after considering all the evidence presented, that Respondents are in violation of any of the above-referenced laws, the Board may take any authorized disciplinary action it deems appropriate.

Instead of proceeding with the aforementioned hearing, the parties may present a **JOINT PROPOSED CONSENT ORDER** to the Board on the same date and time. *See* 75 O.S. § 309(E).

¹ When determining the amount of an administrative penalty, the Board shall consider, but not be limited to:

the nature, circumstances and gravity of the violation and, with respect to the person or entity found to have committed the violation, the degree of culpability, the effect on ability of the person or entity to continue to do business and any show of good faith in attempting to achieve compliance with the provisions of the Funeral Services Licensing Act.

Respectfully submitted:

Kylie Cooper, OBA # 32758

Assistant Attorney General Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General 313 NE 21st Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73105 kylie.cooper@oag.ok.gov

Attorney for Oklahoma Funeral Board

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 20 day of Servay, 2024, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Complaint and Notice of Hearing was served either mailing by Certified Mail or by handing to a process server for service in person, as follows:

BY CERTIFIED MAIL:

Heritage Funeral Home and Cremation Services LLC 1300 North Lottie Ave Oklahoma City, OK 73117

Christopher Harrison 1300 North Lottie Ave Oklahoma City, OK 7317

> Tyler Stiles, MBA **Executive Director**

BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA FUNERAL BOARD STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT AGAINST:

Christopher Harrison

Licenses:

2927FD and 3308EM,

Address:

1300 North Lottie Ave

Oklahoma City, OK 73117

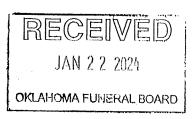
A Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer and the former Funeral Director in Charge

at

HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES, LLC,

Complaint No. 24-08

Respondent.



COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF HEARING

The State of Oklahoma, *ex rel.*, Oklahoma Funeral Board ("Board"), by and through Assistant Attorney General Kylie Cooper, files this Complaint and Notice of Hearing, alleging that the Respondent, CHRISTOPHER HARRISON, has violated provisions of the State Funeral Services Licensing Act, 59 O.S. § 395.1 *et seq.* (the

"Act"), and Rules of the Board, Oklahoma Administrative Code ("O.A.C.") Section 235:10-1-1 *et seq.* (the "Rules"), in the manner set forth below:

JURISDICTION

- 1. Respondent HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES ("Funeral Home") was formerly licensed by the Board, establishment license number 1659ES, and was located at 1300 North Lottie Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73117.
- 2. Respondent CHRISTOPHER HARRISON ("Funeral Director in Charge" or "FDIC") is licensed by the Board as a funeral director and embalmer, license numbers 2927FD and 3308EM, and at all relevant times was the Funeral Director in Charge at Funeral Home.
- 3. Respondent HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES LLC ("Owner") is, and at all relevant times was, the owner of record for Funeral Home. Upon information and belief, Respondent CHRISTOPHER HARRISON is the owner and registered agent for Respondent HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES LLC.
- 4. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondents pursuant to 59 O.S. §§ 396.2a(9) and (11). See also 59 O.S. § 396.12f(F).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 5. On or about August 22, 2023, Board staff received a complaint from a consumer, stating that she lost one of her sons in February and another son in March. At the time of her complaint, she had not received the death certificate for either of her children and had not received the cremated remains for either child, and she had not received the urns purchased.
- 6. On August 22, 2023, Board staff processed the complaint with the Board, alleging a violation of OAC 235:10-7-2(14), failure to file a death certificate, cremation permit, disinterment permit. The Board provided Respondents with the Notice of Complaint via email.

- 7. On December 6, 2023, Respondents filed their response to Complaint 24-08 with the Board. Respondents stated that one death certificate has discrepancies regarding the date of death, and they forwarded a correction email to the "OCME." Regarding the other death certificate, Respondent states that the delay was due to an investigation into the cause of death. The cause of death was certified on 11/29/2023.
- 8. By public vote during the meeting on December 14, 2023, the Board found probable cause to file a formal complaint against Respondents for the violations alleged herein.
- 9. The prosecution has sufficient evidence which, if presented to the Board at an evidentiary hearing, would constitute clear and convincing evidence of the alleged violations.

ALLEGED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 10. Respondents violated O.A.C. 235:10-3-2(14) by failing to file a death certificate, cremation permit, disinterment permit or any other necessary permit as required by law in a timely manner.
- 11. FDIC is "responsible for the legal and ethical operation of the [Funeral Home] and is accountable to the Board." 59 O.S. § 396.2(12). Therefore, Respondent CHRISTOPHER HARRISON, as the Funeral Director in Charge of the Funeral Home is also liable for the above violations.
- 12. Due to the above violations, Respondents are subject to disciplinary action by the Board. See 59 O.S. §§ 396.2a(9) and (11); id. at §§ 396.12c(A)(5) and (8); id. at § 396.12d; id. at § 396.12e.

AUTHORIZED PENALTIES

13. The Board is authorized to impose any of the following penalties for violations of the Act or Rules: (1) denial, revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal of license or certificate of apprenticeship; (2) administrative fines up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) per series of related

violations¹; (3) injunctive proceedings; and (4) other disciplinary action. 59 O.S. §§ 396.12c(5) and (8); *id.* at § 396.12c; *id.* at § 396.12d; *id.* at § 396.12e.

- 1. Further, the Board is authorized to "impose . . . as a condition of any adverse disciplinary action, the payment of costs expended by the Board in investigating and prosecuting the violation." 59 O.S. § 396.12e(B). Costs may include, but are not limited to, "staff time, salary and travel expenses, [and] witness fees and attorney fees." *Id*.
- 2. In lieu of prosecution, Respondents "may elect to surrender the license." *Id.* at § 396.12e(D). However, should Respondents surrender their licenses, they "shall be forever barred from obtaining a reissuance of said license or certificate of apprenticeship." *Id.*

NOTICE OF HEARING

An EVIDENTARY HEARING will be held before the Board on FEBRUARY 8, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. Respondents may appear personally or through an attorney. If Respondents fail to appear, the hearing will be held in their absence. Respondents have the right to submit a written response, cross-examine witnesses, and present evidence on their behalf. See 75 O.S. §§ 309 and 310. If the Board decides, after considering all the evidence presented, that Respondents are in violation of any of the above-referenced laws, the Board may take any authorized disciplinary action it deems appropriate.

Instead of proceeding with the aforementioned hearing, the parties may present a **JOINT PROPOSED CONSENT ORDER** to the Board on the same date and time. *See* 75 O.S. § 309(E).

When determining the amount of an administrative penalty, the Board shall consider, but not be limited to:

the nature, circumstances and gravity of the violation and, with respect to the person or entity found to have committed the violation, the degree of culpability, the effect on ability of the person or entity to continue to do business and any show of good faith in attempting to achieve compliance with the provisions of the Funeral Services Licensing Act.

Respectfully submitted:

Kylie Cooper, OBA # 32758 Assistant Attorney General Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General 313 NE 21st Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

kylie.cooper@oag.ok.gov

Attorney for Oklahoma Funeral Board

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 2 day of survey, 2024, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Complaint and Notice of Hearing was served either mailing by Certified Mail or by handing to a process server for service in person, as follows:

BY CERTIFIED MAIL:

Heritage Funeral Home and Cremation Services LLC 1300 North Lottie Ave Oklahoma City, OK 73117

Christopher Harrison 1300 North Lottie Ave Oklahoma City, OK 7317

> Tyler Stiles, MBA **Executive Director**

BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA FUNERAL BOARD STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT AGAINST:

Christopher Harrison

Licenses:

2927FD and 3308EM,

Address:

1300 North Lottie Ave

Oklahoma City, OK 73117

A Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer and the former Funeral Director in Charge

at

HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES, LLC,

Complaint No. 24-20

Respondent.

RECEIVED

JAN 2 2 2024

OKLAHOMA FUNERAL BOARD

COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF HEARING

The State of Oklahoma, *ex rel.*, Oklahoma Funeral Board ("Board"), by and through Assistant Attorney General Kylie Cooper, files this Complaint and Notice of Hearing, alleging that the Respondent, CHRISTOPHER HARRISON, has violated provisions of the State Funeral Services Licensing Act, 59 O.S. § 395.1 *et seq.* (the

"Act"), and Rules of the Board, Oklahoma Administrative Code ("O.A.C.") Section 235:10-1-1 et seq. (the "Rules"), in the manner set forth below:

JURISDICTION

- 1. Respondent HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES ("Funeral Home") was formerly licensed by the Board, establishment license number 1659ES, and was located at 1300 North Lottie Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73117.
- 2. Respondent CHRISTOPHER HARRISON ("Funeral Director in Charge" or "FDIC") is licensed by the Board as a funeral director and embalmer, license numbers 2927FD and 3308EM, and at all relevant times was the Funeral Director in Charge at Funeral Home.
- 3. Respondent HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES LLC ("Owner") is, and at all relevant times was, the owner of record for Funeral Home. Upon information and belief, Respondent CHRISTOPHER HARRISON is the owner and registered agent for Respondent HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES LLC.
- 4. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondents pursuant to 59 O.S. §§ 396.2a(9) and (11). See also 59 O.S. § 396.12f(F).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 5. On or about November 13, 2023, Board staff received a complaint from Central Burial Vaults Inc., regarding three invoices totaling \$3,545.00. They alleged that Respondent had not paid the invoices within 90 days. The invoices were included in the complaint.
- 6. On November 13, 2023, Board staff processed the complaint with the Board, alleging a violation of OAC 235:10-7-2(9), failure to discharge a financial obligation within 90 days. The Board provided Respondents with the Notice of Complaint via email.

- 7. On December 6, 2023, Respondents filed their response to Complaint 24-20 with the Board. Respondents state that they have ceased operations of Heritage Funeral Home and were working to address outstanding matters.
- 8. By public vote during the meeting on December 14, 2023, the Board found probable cause to file a formal complaint against Respondents for the violations alleged herein.
- 9. The prosecution has sufficient evidence which, if presented to the Board at an evidentiary hearing, would constitute clear and convincing evidence of the alleged violations.

ALLEGED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 10. Respondents violated O.A.C. 235:10-3-2(9) by failing to pay a vendor or third-party obligation within 90 days.
- 11. FDIC is "responsible for the legal and ethical operation of the [Funeral Home] and is accountable to the Board." 59 O.S. § 396.2(12). Therefore, Respondent CHRISTOPHER HARRISON, as the Funeral Director in Charge of the Funeral Home is also liable for the above violations.
- 12. Due to the above violations, Respondents are subject to disciplinary action by the Board. See 59 O.S. §§ 396.2a(9) and (11); id. at §§ 396.12c(A)(5) and (8); id. at § 396.12d; id. at § 396.12e.

AUTHORIZED PENALTIES

13. The Board is authorized to impose any of the following penalties for violations of the Act or Rules: (1) denial, revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal of license or certificate of apprenticeship; (2) administrative fines up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) per series of related

violations¹; (3) injunctive proceedings; and (4) other disciplinary action. 59 O.S. §§ 396.12c(5) and (8); *id.* at § 396.12c; *id.* at § 396.12d; *id.* at § 396.12e.

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When determining the amount of an administrative penalty, the Board shall consider, but not be limited to:

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Respectfully submitted:

Kylie Cooper, OBA # 32758

Assistant Attorney General

Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General

313 NE 21st Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

kylie.cooper@oag.ok.gov

Attorney for Oklahoma Funeral Board

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the day of d

\mathcal{E} - BY CERTIFIED MAIL:

Heritage Funeral Home and Cremation Services LLC 1300 North Lottie Ave Oklahoma City, OK 73117

Christopher Harrison 1300 North Lottie Ave Oklahoma City, OK 7317

Tyler Stiles, MBA
Executive Director