

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: September 10, 2026 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 September 8, 2026 at 1:30PM. 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 info@funeral.ok.gov.

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 August 13, 2026, Regular Board meeting minutes
3. Oklahoma Funeral Director's Association Update from a Representative of OKFDA, with possible discussion
4. Oklahoma Insurance Department Update from a Representative of OID, with possible discussion
5. Oklahoma Department of Health Update from a Representative of OKDH, with possible discussion
6. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Update from a Representative of OCME, with possible discussion
7. University of Central Oklahoma Update from a Representative of UCO, with possible discussion
8. Review complaints with possible vote for probable cause or other action

26-43 Merchandise Issue
26-55 Decedent Tracking Issue

26-58 Misleading Advertising Issue
26-62 Next of Kin Issue
26-68 Embalming Authorization Issue
27-01 Death Certificate Issues
27-03 Next of Kin Issue
27-09 Cremated Remains Issue

9. Matters for consideration: Consent Order, Hearing, Motion to Enforce, 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.

9A. Complaint 26-04 Affordable Cremation Service, OKC, Beacon Funeral Partners (Oklahoma) LLC, Owner. Member Watkins was the probable cause member and needs to recuse.

10. Vote to affirm or disaffirm the issuance of the following licenses, registrations, certificates, dissolution or other action

A. Apprenticeship (Original)

1. Mathew Burch, Antlers, Serenity FS, Antlers (EM Only)
2. Grace Riley, Muskogee, Matthew's FH&CS, Edmond (8/21)
3. Lindsey Keel, Norman, Bill Eisenhour FH, OKC
4. Arabella Owsley, Spencer, Bill Eisenhour FH, OKC
5. Denney Hawksworth, Edmond, Matthew's FH&CS, Edmond

B. Apprenticeship (2nd Extension)

1. Kathleen Salas Roldan, Tulsa, Schaudt's Glenpool-Bixby FS & CCC, Glenpool (8/18)
2. Lexus Stephenson, OKC, Mercer-Adams FS, Bethany
3. Angela Quinlan, McAlester, Chaney Harkins FH, McAlester (FD Only) (8/20)

C. Apprenticeship (3rd Extension)

1. Alexandria Nimsey, Tulsa, Bixby-South Tulsa FS&C, Bixby

D. Funeral Director Assistant (Original)

1. Thaddeus Kassheimer, Ringling, Alexander Gray FH, Wilson (9/1)

E. Funeral Director and/or Embalmer (Original)

1. Tyler Robbins, Bartlesville (FD Only) (9/1)
2. Tabitha Brown, Stillwater (EM Only) (8/25)

F. Establishments

1. Alternatives Cremation & Funeral Service, OKC, new establishment, Alternatives Cremation & Funeral Service LLC, Owner, Richard Varner, FDIC (8/20)

11. 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.

12. Executive Director's Report

A. Agency Financial Update

B. Board meeting location for October in Tulsa at M.E. Office

13. Strategic Planning: Discussion and possible action regarding change of Board Statutes or Board Rules:

A. Statute or rule change suggestions from Board Members and Board Staff

- B. Public Comment limited to 2 minutes per person and limited to statute or rule changes
- C. Creation of committee to review, discuss, and create statute or rule changes for next Board meeting

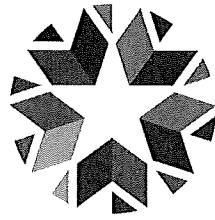
14. Matters for consideration: Executive Director

- A. Discussion and possible action on the employment, including a merit-based salary increase, of the Executive Director.
- B. Vote on possible executive session pursuant to 25 O.S. 2011, Section 307 (B) (1) Discussing the employment, including a merit-based salary increase, of the Executive Director.
- C. Possible action to be taken as a result of the executive session concerning the employment, including a merit-based salary increase, of the Executive Director.

15. Adjournment

Tyler Stiles, MBA
Executive Director

The next regular meeting of the Oklahoma Funeral Board will be held: October 8, 2026. Office of Chief Medical Examiner -Tulsa Office, 1627 Southwest Blvd. Tulsa, OK 74107, second floor conference room.



OKLAHOMA Funeral Board

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

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

August 13, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS

John Davenport
Glenn Dunn
Brent Matherly
Jeremy Sparks
Bart Watkins

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 August 10, 2026 at 10:00AM. A copy of this agenda is available on the Funeral Board website at www.ok.gov/funeral

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

President Davenport presented Mr. Matherly with a plaque and thanking him for his service as the past president of the Funeral Board.

Motion by Sparks second by Dunn to approve the July 9, 2026 Regular Board meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

OKFDA did not provide an update.

Rowena Ehrman reported that if there are any name changes or other changes, please notify the Insurance Department within 30 days by using their form online.

Kevin Gille reported that if there are any name changes or other changes, please notify the Health Department. The Health Department will have a quarterly webinar September 15-16 from 11:15AM-12:15PM

Tim Dwyer reported that he is back with the Medical Examiner's office. The OCME reimburses mileage but it is the state rate of .76 and is tier based. The OCME has a budget shortfall due to lower appropriations from the legislature, therefore OCME reduced salaries of employees by 3% and 5% for doctors, triage cases have lowered to 60 years of age, and there has been a hiring freeze at the agency.

Isabella Walker reported that classes start at UCO on Monday with move in happening on Thursday (Aug. 13), if there are any questions for practicum, please contact Isabella.

Regarding the matters for consideration: Consent Order, Hearing, Motion to Enforce, or Scheduling Order: Complaint 26-69 Henninger-Hinson Funeral Home, Inc., Enid, Henninger-Allen Funeral Home, Inc, Owner, Matt Hinson, FDIC. The prosecution was represented by Kylie Cooper, AAG. Liz Stevens, AAG, was the Board's legal advisor. Members Dunn, Davenport, Matherly, and Watkins heard the case. Member Sparks was the probable cause member and was recused from the case and he left the room.

Motion by Watkins second by Matherly to approve the Consent Order. The consent order consisted of the following: The agreed violations were: failure to discharge financial obligation within 90 days, violation of the Funeral Service Licensing Act, and Rules of the Board. The terms consisted of the following: Administrative Penalty of \$250, Mr. Hinson shall complete an additional 6 hours of CE, restitution of \$1,043, and Costs of \$500. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Sparks reentered the room.

Regarding Appointment of Hearing Officer and Recusal and Disqualification of Board Members for Complaint 26-08, Alpha & Omega Mortuary Service and Crematory, OKC, Stillwell Limited, Inc. OKC, Heather Squires, FDIC. Member Matherly was the probable cause member and he recused and left the room.

Regarding Appointment of Hearing Officer and Recusal and Disqualification of Board Members for Complaint 26-15, Alpha & Omega Mortuary Service and Crematory, OKC, Stillwell Limited, Inc. OKC, Heather Squires, FDIC. Member Matherly was the probable cause member and he recused and left the room.

After the presentation by the respondents' attorney, motion by Sparks second by Watkins to enter executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Dunn second by Sparks to exit executive session. No other items were discussed and no votes were taken while in executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sparks second by Davenport voted to recuse each member and assign a Hearing Officer to conduct the Hearing and render a Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law and a recommendation for the Board to adopt. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Davenport second by Dunn to approve the following: Apprenticeship (Original) Michael Woods, Ada, Criswell FH, Ada; Sheridan Olds, OKC, Chapel Hill FH, OKC (FD Only). Apprenticeship (1st Extension); Regan Sager, Tulsa, Hayhurst FH, Broken Arrow; Lorelai Rivas Silva, Warr Acres, Bill Eisenhower FH, OKC; Clay Neel, OKC, Vondel L. Smith & Son Mortuary, OKC. Apprenticeship (2nd Extension); Emmaline Kuhn, Edmond, Smith & Kernke FD, OKC; Hailey Fahey, MWC, Asa Smith FS, Harrah. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Davenport second by Dunn to table the following due to lack of completed law exam: Funeral Director Assistant (Original), Thaddeus Kassheimer, Ringling, Alexander Gray FH, Wilson; Serena Torres, Edmond, Chapel of Serenity FH&C, OKC. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Davenport second by Dunn to approve the following: Funeral Director and/or Embalmer (Original), Kaleb Biglow, Muskogee (FD Only). Establishments; Walker Funeral & Cremation Service, Shawnee, request to change name to Riley-Walker Funeral Service & Crematory; Southhaven Funeral Services, Purcell, request to close establishment; Smith FH, Sapulpa, request to change FDIC from Danilo Gaton to Thomas Durman; Rogers Family FS, Nicoma Park, request to change FDIC from Kristi Hamilton to Thelma Stevens; Rolfe FH, OKC, request to change FDIC from Jimmie Boldien to Joe Anna Sicard. Crematories; Riley-Walker Crematory, Shawnee, new crematory, Transitional Services, LLC, Owner, Mark Riley, FDIC; Southhaven Crematory, Purcell, request to close crematory; Brown's Crematory, Coweta, new crematory, Coweta Funeral Service, Inc., Owner, Logan Brown, FDIC. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no new business

Agency Financial update- Mr. Stiles reported gross receipts for July 2026 to be \$11,141.00 with \$502.10 going to the State of Oklahoma general fund. The expenses for the same timeframe totaled \$44,541.91 and net income after expenses totaled -\$33,903.01

Motion by Sparks second by Davenport to approve tours of the Medical Examiner's office for 1 hour of continuing education. Licensees may obtain 1 hour at each location. The motion passed unanimously. The dates for the tours are

OKC

Oct. 27 (Tuesday) at 3:00PM

Nov. 5 (Thursday) at 3:00PM

Nov. 12 (Thursday) at 3:00PM

Tulsa

Nov. 17 (Tuesday) at 3:00PM

Nov. 24 (Tuesday) at 3:00PM

Dec. 2 (Wednesday) at 3:00PM

Motion by Sparks second by Dunn to direct Board staff to approve applications and the Board will ratify at the next Board meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sparks second by Dunn to have a planning session during the next Board meeting. The Board will have a strategic planning session during the September 2026 meeting with a public comment period. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sparks reported that Jimmie Boldien of Rolfe Funeral Home in OKC has passed away and thanked him for his service to the industry.

Motion by Watkins second by Sparks to adjourn the meeting at 10:32AM. The motion passed unanimously.

John Davenport,
Oklahoma Funeral Board President

**BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA FUNERAL BOARD
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT
AGAINST:**

**Affordable Cremation Service
(2029ES)**

10900 N. Eastern Ave
Oklahoma City, OK 73131

Owned by:

**Beacon Funeral Partners
(Oklahoma) LLC**

2150 Town Square Pl Suite 290
Sugarland, TX 77479

Complaint No. 26-04

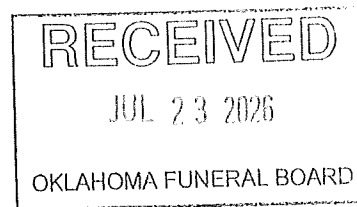
Randilyn Walker

Licenses: 3218FD and 3591EM,
Address: 609 Sage Brush Rd
Yukon, OK 73099

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

**AFFORDABLE CREMATION
SERVICE**

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 Respondents, **RANDILYN WALKER, AFFORDABLE CREMATION SERVICE, and BEACON FUNERAL PARTNERS (OKLAHOMA) LLC**, 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 AFFORDABLE CREMATION SERVICE (“Funeral Home”) is licensed by the Board, establishment license number 2029ES, and is located at 10900 N. Eastern Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73131.
2. Respondent RANDILYN WALKER (“Funeral Director in Charge” or “FDIC”) is licensed by the Board as a funeral director and embalmer, license numbers 3218FD and 3591EM, and is the current the Funeral Director in Charge at Funeral Home.
3. Respondent BEACON FUNERAL PARTNERS (OKLAHOMA) LLC (“Owner”) is, and at all relevant times was, the owner of record for Funeral Home. Upon information and belief, Respondent RANDILYN WALKER is the registered agent for Respondent BEACON FUNERAL PARTNERS (OKLAHOMA) 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 13, 2025, Board staff received a complaint from a consumer regarding the cremains received after the death of Complainant's brother-in-law. The complaint stated that the decedent had died on January 11, 2024 and was cremated shortly thereafter. Almost two years later, on August 6, 2025, the decedent's family opened his urn and discovered that it was empty and there were no cremated remains inside.

6. Further, the complaint alleged that they had to contact the Respondents to notify them. After this, they were mailed the cremated remains of their family member.

7. On or about August 13, 2025, Board staff notified the Respondents of the Complaint. The Board provided Respondents with the Notice of Complaint via certified letter, which was mailed on that date.

8. On September 11, 2025, Respondents filed their response to Complaint 26-04 with the Board. The Respondents stated that at the time of the cremation, Randilyn Walker was not the FDIC at the Funeral Home. Further, Respondents indicated that they acted as quickly as possible for the benefit of the Complainant and they implemented new procedures at Funeral Home in response.

9. By public vote during the meeting on October 9, 2025, 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 OAC 235: 10-7-2(1) Material Misrepresentation, when they

misrepresented to the decedent's family where custody of the decedent's cremains were, falsely representing that the cremains were in the urns in possession of the family. OAC 235: 10-7-2(1) provides,

“(1) **Material misrepresentation.** Material misrepresentation to the public of facts, requirements of Oklahoma Statutes, State Board Rules, or any rule or regulation pertaining directly to the custody, care, or disposal of dead human remains. Material misrepresentation is also construed to include a person knowingly and willfully signing a certificate as having embalmed, cremated, or prepared a dead human body for disposition when, in fact, the services were not performed as indicated. A material misrepresentation also includes misrepresentation to the Board of completion of continuing education requirements when the requirements were not met.”

12. Further, Respondents violated OAC 235: 10-7-2(13) Charging, when they received money for services or merchandise and then failed to provide the services or merchandise contracted for, in the form of the decedent's cremains. OAC 235: 10-7-2(13) provides, “(13) **Charging.** for service or merchandise not contracted for or failing to provide the services or merchandise contracted for or making substitution for services or merchandise contracted for without the authorization of the customer.”

13. 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 RANDILYN WALKER, as the Funeral Director in Charge of the Funeral Home is also liable for the above violations.

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

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

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.

15. 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.*

16. 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 **August 13, 2026 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.

59 O.S. § 396.12e(C).

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

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kylie Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

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

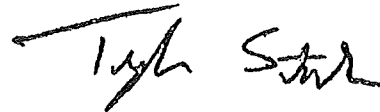
I hereby certify that on the 23rd day of July, 2026, a true and correct copy of the foregoing *Complaint and Notice of Hearing* was served by mailing by Certified Mail and email as follows:

RANDILYN WALKER
609 Sage Brush Rd
Yukon, OK 73099

LARRY MORGAN
MORGAN AND MORGAN, PC
11912 N. Pennsylvania Ave, Suite D1
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
larrymorgan@morganandmorganlaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENTS

AFFORDABLE CREMATION SERVICE
10900 N. Eastern Ave
Oklahoma City, OK 73131

BEACON FUNERAL PARTNERS (OKLAHOMA) LLC
2150 Town Square Pl Suite 290
Sugarland, TX 77479



Tyler Stiles,
MBA Executive
Director

Tyler Stiles

From: Rochelle Covington
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2026 9:34 AM
To: Tyler Stiles
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] statute amendment
Attachments: law amendment.docx

From: chris@beckerfuneral.com <chris@beckerfuneral.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2026 9:26 AM
To: Funeral Board Info <info@funeral.ok.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] statute amendment

Good Day –

Recently I inquired about the apprenticeship rules as it applies to an “Assistant Funeral Director”. My understanding is that should an assistant funeral director currently desire to pursue licensure as a funeral director an apprenticeship would need to be served. This would then disqualify that individual from serving as an assistant funeral director.

The Assistant Funeral Director license was created by the Legislature as a distinct professional credential. Assistant funeral directors are already authorized to assist with funeral arrangements, conduct funeral services, and perform many of the same duties performed by licensed funeral directors under supervision. Requiring an individual to complete an additional twelve-month apprenticeship after serving for at least one year as a licensed Assistant Funeral Director creates an unnecessary duplication of training and delays entry into the profession. This amendment recognizes practical experience already obtained while preserving all education, examination, moral character, and continuing education requirements established by Oklahoma law.

One additional observation: because §59-396.3b already requires 60 college credit hours, passage of the Oklahoma Law Exam, Board approval, and supervised employment, Assistant Funeral Directors are arguably more qualified than many apprentices when they complete their first year.

As the Board enters the planning phase for statute and rule improvement I would like to respectfully submit the attached as a possible amendment to the statutes.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Chris Rabon
Becker-Rabon Funeral Home
1502 Ft. Sill BLvd.
Lawton OK 73507
580 353 3030

Amendment to 59-396.3(C)1

C. 1. If a person chooses not to meet the qualifications in subsection B of this section for a funeral director, the person may alternatively qualify for a license to practice funeral directing, but not embalming, upon meeting the eligibility requirements of this subsection as follows: An applicant for a license to practice funeral directing shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age, a legal resident of this state, a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. An applicant is required to complete a funeral director course of study approved by the Oklahoma Funeral Board and that is administered by program of funeral service/mortuary science accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE). The funeral director course of Study shall include at least thirty (30) semester hours or Equivalent closely following the ABFSE curriculum standard, limited to only: Business Management, Cremation, Social Sciences/Humanities, Legal, Ethical, Regulatory, plus essential elements of embalming, restorative art, general concerns when dealing with human remains, a practicum experience and preparation for the required board exams. In addition to the funeral director course of study the applicant is required to complete a twelve-month minimum term as a registered apprentice with employment at a licensed establishment and must have assisted with twenty five arrangement conferences and assisted with twenty-five separate funeral or memorial services under the supervision of a licensed funeral director in this state. The applicant may serve as a registered apprentice prior to enrollment in an approved school of mortuary science, concurrently while in mortuary school, or subsequent to completion of the funeral director course of study. An applicant who has been licensed and actively employed as an Assistant Funeral Director pursuant to Section 396.3b of this title for not less than twelve (12) consecutive months shall be deemed to have satisfied the registered apprenticeship requirement for licensure as a funeral director.

Amendment to 59-396.3b

§59-396.3b Funeral Director Assistant

Add a new subsection E:

E. Any person who has held an active Assistant Funeral Director license for a minimum period of one (1) year and has been continuously employed by a licensed funeral service establishment under the supervision of a licensed funeral director shall receive full credit toward the apprenticeship requirement otherwise required for licensure as a funeral director under Section 396.3 of this title. No separate apprenticeship shall be required for such applicant.

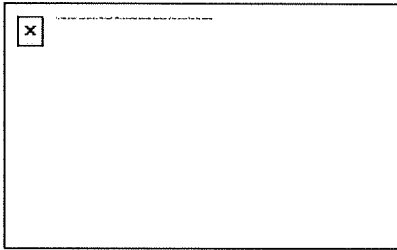
Tyler Stiles

From: Johnson Funeral Home <staff@johnsonsperry.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 10:54 AM
To: Tyler Stiles
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Cremation Statute/Rule Change
Attachments: Disposition of Cremated Remains Statute Change.docx; Timeframe for Disposition of Cremated Remains Statute Change.docx

Hopefully, this isn't too late to be considered for the legislative update this Thursday, Spet. 8. Attached is my suggestion for an update to the state statute or the funeral board rules. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding my suggestion.

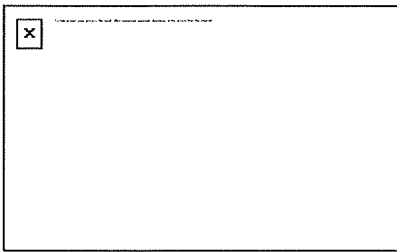
I did make one change to the Timeframe for Disposition of Cremated Remains Statute Change from my previous email after the initial authorizing agent fails to assert their right to disposition.

Scott Johnson
Funeral Director



On Tue, Sep 8, 2026 at 10:45 AM Johnson Funeral Home <staff@johnsonsperry.com> wrote:
Hopefully, this isn't too late to be considered for the legislative update this Thursday, Spet. 8. Attached is my suggestion for an update to the state statute or the funeral board rules. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding my suggestion.

Scott Johnson
Funeral Director



I would like to see changes to either the Oklahoma Statutes or clarification in the Funeral Board Rules regarding the Disposition of Cremated Remains.

Title 59 Section 396.29, Subsection F

Currently, the statute currently states, “After 60 calendar days, if the authorizing agent or representative has not specified the ultimate disposition or claimed the cremated remains, the funeral establishment may dispose of the cremated remains in a dignified and humane manner...”

The statute change or clarification by Funeral Board Rule I am suggesting is to change/clarify who has the right to disposition of cremated remains or claim the remains. I am suggesting the right be vested the same as human remains set forth in Title 21, Section 1158. If the cremated remains are unclaimed or no final disposition is directed, the next person in the list of right to control disposition should be able to claim the ashes from the funeral home. Numerous funeral homes have unclaimed ashes we are the caretakers of because they are unable to contact the authorizing agent. Currently, the law doesn't expressly give us permission to release the ashes to any other next of kin for the deceased person as we cannot guarantee the ashes will be disposed of in a dignified and humane manner. I spoke with other funeral directors who stated they added a

provision regarding releasing the remains to other next of kin following the list in Title 21, Section 1158, but I feel this leaves funeral homes open to legal proceedings if families claim, “they didn’t know what they were signing.” Putting in additional language to the current statute or adding a funeral rule would consumers and funeral homes/directors as it gives next of kin legal recourse if the authorizing agent fails to do their duty.

I think the timeframe for disposing of or releasing cremated remains to a next of kin other than the authorizing agent should be lowered to 30 days. Human remains are released after 5 days if no one claims the right to disposition, allowing the next degree of heirship to take on the responsibility for the disposition. I think holding cremated remains for more than 60 days puts an undue liability and hardship on funeral homes to guarantee nothing happens to the ashes. Funeral homes could still elect to hold them for longer than the 30 days as their policy, but I found most families who want their loved one's ashes generally pick them up within a few days after notification or claim them by some other method. After the initial 30 days, I think each person/group on the list from Title 21, Section 1158 should have 14 days to claim the right to disposition. This would ensure disposition of the cremated remains occurs in a reasonable and timely manner.

This statute/rule change would go hand in hand with the other change I suggested regarding cremated remains being treated like human remains because it provides families with a quicker timeline to complete the disposition of their loved one to focus on processing their grief and loss.