



# ALABAMA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICES

## FUNERAL MEETING MINUTES

### January 06, 2026

#### **Prior Notice**

Prior notice of the January 06, 2026, second quarterly board meeting of fiscal year 2026 was posted to the Secretary of State website on January 09, 2025, and updated on December 16, 2025. Meeting information was distributed to licensees via the quarterly newsletter on December 17, 2025. The meeting was held at 10:00 AM in the Board's office located at 4276 Lomac Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36106.

#### **Call to Order**

##### **Roll Call of the Board**

At 10:28 AM, Mr. J. Douglas Williams, Presiding Officer, called to order the second quarterly funeral division business meeting for fiscal year 2026, and asked Ms. Laura Sullivan for a roll call to establish a quorum. The following members were present: Kenneth Bishop, Terry Sorrells, James Martin, Jr., J. Douglas Williams, Karen Jones Smith, Cody Caldwell, Christal Whitfield, Bobby Burt, and Sandra Hill.

Staff present: Charles M. Perine, Executive Director; Laura Sullivan, Associate Executive Director—recording; Octavia Johnson, Accountant; and Brenton Smith, Legal Counsel.

#### **Welcome/Remarks by Chair**

With a quorum established, Mr. Williams welcomed all present at the funeral division business meeting.

#### **Conflict of Interest/Motion to Set the Agenda**

Mr. Williams requested that the board members review the agenda for the January 6, 2026, meeting. Mr. Williams asked if any member had any conflict of interest with any items on the agenda. Being none, Mr. Sorrells made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Jones Smith, to set the agenda as presented. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Business**

##### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Williams asked the members to review the minutes of the October 7, 2025, board meeting. After review, Mrs. Whitfield made a motion, seconded by Mr. Martin, to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2025, board meeting. Being no discussion, the motion passed.

##### **Approval/Denial of Licenses**

###### **New Licenses**

Having passed the state law exam, and having met the passing criteria on the licensure exam or **having met the requirements** for licensure by reciprocity, Mr. Perine asked the board to consider the following individuals be approved for licensing as a funeral director, embalmer, or cremationist: Shotoria Hughes, Carol K. Monteleone, Christopher Pschirer, Alexis Sherron Parker Thomas, Arthur H. Hammond, Christopher M. McGadney, Bryant Bradley, Crystal L. Corley, Crystal L. Waid, Elizabeth A. Alexander, Emily Faith Veal, Candice V. Williams, Greisy Y. Valladeres, Jaidia Holla Vickery, James Devine, Johnathon Derrick Johnson, Julie M. Renard, Kyra E. Caspari, Logan James Thorne, Naiesshia Makita Thomas, Maurice L. Woodard, Sabrina W. Gholston, Sawyer C. Downs, William M. Rutherford, Sederick D. Fluker, Shetina C. Hughes, Waylon James Powell, William Gary Craft, and Shetina C. Stewart. Mr. Caldwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sorrells, to approve the licensure of the individuals listed above as a funeral director, embalmer, or cremationist. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

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### Apprentice Certificate Reactivation

Having met the requirements for reactivation of an apprenticeship license, Mr. Perine asked the board to consider the following individuals be approved for reactivation of apprenticeship licensure for funeral director or embalmer: Ajah A. Abercrombie, Kayleigh Maraih Childers, and Vincent S. Jackson. Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Jones Smith, to approve the reactivation of apprenticeship licenses. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

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### Permanent License Reactivation

**Having met the requirements** for reactivation of a permanent license, Mr. Perine asked the board to consider the following individuals be approved for reactivation of a permanent licensure for funeral director, embalmer, or cremationist: Tommy Fuller, Marquis S. Jackson, Steven G. Wilson, and Virgil C. Ford. Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, to approve the reactivation of permanent licensure for funeral director, embalmer, or cremationist for the individuals listed above. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

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### Establishment Reactivation

**Having met the requirements** for reactivating an establishment license, Mr. Perine asked the board to consider the following entity be approved for the reactivation of the establishment license: House of Solace. Mr. Sorrells made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Jones Smith, to approve the reactivation of the establishment license for House of Solace. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

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### Establishment Changes of Ownership

**Having met the requirements** for a change of ownership, Mr. Perine asked the board to consider the following entities be approved for a change of ownership: Mayberry Funeral Home changed to Atmore Community Chapel, Gibbs Service, Inc. D/B/A Benefield Funeral Home (Wedowee), Gibbs Service, Inc. D/B/A Quattelbaum Funeral Home, Talladega Funeral Home, Inc. changed to Cosby Funeral Home, LLC, Blount County Cleveland Funeral Home changed to Cleveland Funeral Home, and Legacy Chapel, LLC D/B/A Legacy Chapel Funeral Home and Crematory changed to Legacy Chapel Funeral Home and Crematory, LLC D/B/A Legacy Chapel Funeral Home and Crematory. Mr. Sorrells made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Whitfield, to approve the change of ownership of the establishments listed above. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

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### Establishment Closures

Mr. Perine informed the board members that the following entities have elected to voluntarily surrender the establishment license and close operation: Atmore Community Chapel Funeral Home and Southern Heritage Funeral Home (Dothan). Mr. Sorrells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Martin, to accept the voluntary closure of the establishments listed above. Being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Licensure Exam Stats**

Mr. Perine informed the board of the following exam statistics for October - December of the fiscal year 2026:

	<b>Exam Type</b>	<b>Total Exams Given</b>	<b>Total Pass</b>	<b>Total Fail</b>	<b>Pass Percentage</b>	<b>Average</b>
	ALFD	17	10	7	58.82%	72.94%
	ALEM	1	0	1	0%	72%
	LRR FD/EM	17	17	0	100.00%	
	LRR CR	4	4	0	100.00%	
<b>TOTALS</b>		55	31	8	64.71%	72.47%

## Discipline

Mr. Perine presented the following consent agreement to the board for approval and also informed the Board that the presented consent agreement had not been carried out by the respondents and therefore, the Board should take further action described in the consent agreement to revoke the permanent license of the respondent.

Complaint Number	Consent Agreements/ Letters of Reprimand	Violation
Amended ABFS24- 0071	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Plea of Guilty</b></p> <p><b>Fine:</b> \$15,000.00 (comprised equally from each of the thirteen (13) counts)</p> <p><b>Restitution:</b> \$1,170.97 to the beneficiary</p> <p><b>Establishment:</b> License suspended from October 20, 2025, to December 1, 2025, to allow for a change of ownership. If no change of ownership occurs, then the license will be <b>REVOKED.</b></p> <p><b>Managing Funeral Director/Owner:</b> License suspended for 30 days – October 20, 2025, to November 19, 2025</p> <p>Probation for 3 years – October 20, 2025, to October 20, 2028</p> <p>May not serve as a managing funeral director for any funeral establishment.</p> <p>May not have any ownership or controlling interest in or serve as an officer of any funeral establishment or any entity operating a funeral establishment.</p>	<p>34-13-56 (c) (2) (dd): Respondents demonstrated bad faith, incompetence, or untrustworthiness by failing to account for funds in excess of total charges listed on the statement of goods and services.</p> <p>34-13-56 (c) (2) (a): Respondents committed fraud in the conduct of the business or the profession of funeral directing by completing a statement of goods and services for funds that were in excess of the total charges listed on the statement of goods and services.</p> <p>34-13-56 (c) (2) (a): Respondents on at least three (3) occasions committed fraud in the conduct of the business or the profession of funeral directing by completing funeral assignments purportedly for the cost of funeral arrangements to secure funds for an unrelated purpose.</p> <p>34-13-56 (c) (2) (aa): Respondents attempted to deceive the Board during the investigation by providing the Board with copies of checks that were not mailed to the next of kin, but rather mailed checks that he did not disclose as part of the investigation.</p> <p>34-13-56 (c) (2) (aa): Respondents attempted to deceive the Board during the investigation by emailing the Board that refunds had been issued to the next of kin when refunds had not been mailed.</p> <p>34-13-56 (c) (2) (v): Respondents on two (2) occasions failed to furnish in writing an adequate explanation relating to the complaint filed, but instead only indicated refunds to next of kin had been mailed.</p> <p>34-13-56 (c) (2) (a); (dd): Respondents demonstrated untrustworthiness or dishonest or improper dealing by completing and submitting for insurance payment a statement of goods and services on December 15, 2023, with a signature other than the beneficiary totaling \$31,248.00.</p> <p>34-13-56 (c) (2) (dd); (a): Respondents on three (3) occasions demonstrated dishonest, fraudulent or improper dealing when undisclosed funding fees were charged to the life insurance policy because of assignments submitted to secure funds for a purpose other than covering the cost of the funeral arrangements of the deceased.</p>

After a brief discussion, Mr. Sorrells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Burt, to accept the consent agreement as presented. Being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Then a motion was made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Sorrells, to move forward with revocation of the license for Ewing Mayberry, pursuant to the consent agreement. Being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Continuing Education Provider Request/Course Request**

Mr. Perine presented the board with a list of 9 continuing education providers and 25 continuing education courses for consideration and approval, totaling 51.5 hours; and with 4 of the courses being given interim approval by Mr. Perine due to the date the courses were offered to licensees, pursuant to Alabama Code 395-X-1-.04. Mr. Perine informed the board that there was no questionable content submitted with the courses. Mrs. Whitfield made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Jones Smith to approve the 51.5 hours of continuing education courses as presented. Being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Executive Session**

The Board's legal counsel declared that the discussion of the good name and character of an applicant warrants an executive session. Mr. Perine recommended that the Board enter into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss the good name and character of an applicant. Mrs. Whitfield made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sorrells, to enter into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss the good name and character of an applicant. The motion passed unanimously. At 10:51 AM, the Board entered executive session. At 11:10 AM, Mr. Williams called the business meeting back to order. A motion was made by Mr. Sorrells, seconded by Mr. Burt, to deny the application for apprentice funeral director and apprentice embalmer for Antonio R. Anderson. Being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Other Business/Adjournment**

Mr. Williams addressed the board and asked for any further questions, comments, or concerns. Being none, Mr. Sorrells made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Whitfield, to adjourn the business meeting and reconvene on April 14, 2026, at 9:00 AM. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously. The business meeting adjourned at 11:11 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Laura Sullivan.

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J. Douglas Williams, Presiding Officer

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Charles M. Perine, Executive Director