ALABAMA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICES
FUNERAL MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2026

Prior Notice

Prior notice of the August 11, 2026, fourth quarterly board meeting of fiscal year 2026 was posted to the Secretary of State website on April 15, 2026. Meeting information was distributed to licensees via the quarterly newsletter on June 18, 2026. The meeting was held at 9:00 AM in the Board's office located at 4276 Lomac Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36106.

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Call to Order

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

At 9:00 AM, Mr. J. Douglas Williams, Presiding Officer, called to order the fourth quarterly funeral division business meeting for fiscal year 2026, and asked Mr. Bobby Burt to bring an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mr. James Martin, Jr.

Roll Call of the Board

Mr. Williams 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, and Bobby Burt.

The following members were absent: Mrs. Sandra Hill.

Staff present: Charles M. Perine, Executive Director; Laura Sullivan, Associate Executive Director—recording; Courtney Smith, Financial Specialist and Licensing Coordinator; Latricia Harris, Licensing and Regulatory Compliance Field Officer; Derek Snellgrove, License and Regulatory Compliance Field Officer; 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 August 11, 2026, meeting. Mr. Williams asked if any member had any conflict of interest with any items on the agenda. Being none, Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Whitfield, 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 April 14, 2026, board meeting. After reviewing, Mrs. Whitfield made a motion, seconded by Mr. Burt, to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2026, board meeting. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

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 be reciprocity, Mr. Perine asked the board to consider the following individuals to be approved for licensing as a funeral director, embalmer, or cremationist: Aisha Drake, Carlton Malone, Frank Poston, Justin Vickerstaff, Justin Smith, Lela Brown, Abriam Brown, Ke'Darius Chism, Marcus Wood, Almatriga Essex, Camdon Otts, Matthew Arrington, Estrella Bastida, Melissa Mathias, Megan Spraggins, Miguel Faulkner, Orlyn Hall,

Jr., Paul Lett, R. Jamal Ali, Steven Ingram, Terry Davis, Isabelle Morris, Tracy Snow, Walter Taylor, Willie Bowman, Isaiah Sumbry, J. Stanley Clemons, Jacob Williams, James Boyd, Yanesha Mitchell, Jayselynn Hawk, Jeffrey Jordan, Johnna Johnson, and Urielle Fortunes. Mr. Sorrells made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Whitfield, to approve the licensure of the individuals listed above as a funeral director, embalmer, or cremationist. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Apprentice Certification Reactivation

Having met the requirements for reactivation of an apprentice certification, Mr. Perine asked the board to consider Liza Lofton for reactivation of apprentice funeral director and apprentice embalmer certification. Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Whitfield, to approve the reactivation of Liza Lofton's apprentice certifications. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Permanent License Reactivation

Having met the requirements for reactivation of a permanent license, Mr. Perine asked the board to consider Allen Warburton to be approved for reactivation of a permanent licensure for funeral director and embalmer. Mrs. Whitfield made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Jones Smith, to approve the reactivation of permanent licensure for Allen Warburton. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

License/Certification Leave Request

Mr. Perine asked the board to consider Abbie Mitchum to be approved of an apprentice leave request effective May 18, 2026. Mrs. Whitefield made a motion, seconded by Mr. Martin, to grant a twelve-month leave for Abbie Mitchum, expiring May 18, 2027. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Establishment

Having met the requirements for a new establishment, Mr. Perine asked the board to consider the following entities to be approved for an establishment license: Azalea Mortuary, LLC, WMTY, Inc. DBA Marion Chapel Funeral Home, S&K Mortuary (Crematory Registration), Tristate Mortuary (Crematory Registration), Johnson Memorial Funeral Home, and Newman Mortuary (Geneva). Mr. Burt made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Jones Smith, to approve the new establishments listed above. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Following the motion, Mr. Perine asked the board to table voting on GORDIOCU Business, Inc. DBA Faith Memorial Chapel until the next board meeting due to pending litigation. Mr. Sorrells made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Whitfield, to table the vote until the next board meeting. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Name Change Requests

Having met the requirements for an establishment name change, Mr. Perine asked the board to consider the following entities to be approved for a name change: K.L. Brown Funeral Home and Crematory (Jacksonville) and K.I. Funeral Home and Crematory (Anniston). Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sorrells, to approve the name change of the establishments listed above. Being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Establishment Closures

Mr. Perine informed the board of the following voluntary permanent establishment closures and asked the board to consider approval of the establishment closures: Lawrence Funeral Home at Pineview, Serenity Chapel Funeral Home, and Bottoms Garden Chapel Funeral Home. Mr. Sorrells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Martin, to approve the 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 April-July of the fiscal year 2026:

	Exam Type	Total Exams Given	Total Pass	Total Fail	Pass Percentage	Average
	ALFD	22	16	6	72.7%	75.67%
	ALEM	4	4	0	100.0%	78.8%
	LRR FD/EM	31	26	5	83.8%	77.13%
	LRR CR	9	8	1	88.0%	86.0%

TOTALS		66	54	12	86.13%	79.4%

Continuing Education Provider Request/Course Request

Mr. Perine presented the board with a new provider/new course applicant, National Institute of Funeral Services, and recommended to the board that voting for this new provider and new course be tabled until the next board meeting to allow for more research since the provider does not have accreditation. Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Jones Smith, to table the voting on this provider and course until the next board meeting. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Perine then presented the board with a list of 11 continuing education providers and 83 continuing education courses for consideration and approval, totaling 127.75 hours; and with 59 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 reminded the board that there was one course presented in the previous board meeting that included questionable content from the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association (ICCFA) that potentially involves unlicensed practice. The ICCFA resubmitted their request by breaking the courses into separate courses so that all other courses could be approved without approving the course with questionable content. Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sorrells, to approve all hours of continuing education courses as presented. Being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Perine informed the board that the Cremation Association of North America (CANA) submitted a nine-hour course for approval that included questionable content that potentially involved unlicensed practice. CANA resubmitted their request to be an eight-hour course, removing the course that included questionable content, and Mr. Perine recommended to the board that the eight-hour course be approved. Mrs. Whitfield made a motion, seconded by Mr. Martin, to deny the nine-hour course and approve the eight-hour course. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business/Adjournment

Questions, Comments, Concerns, Adjournment

Mr. Williams addressed the board and asked for any further questions, comments, or concerns. Being neither, Mr. Perine informed the board of a time sensitive matter involving an administrative hearing that could potentially affect the date the first quarterly board meeting of fiscal year 2027 is held. In the event of a hearing, Mr. Perine provided the board with two options: move the October 13, 2026, meeting to October 27, 2026, since the board will have to take action after the hearing and serve the action no later than October 29, 2026; or have the regularly scheduled board meeting on October 13, 2026, and then have a special called meeting to discuss the action to be taken. After a brief discussion, Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Whitfield, to decide on moving the first quarterly business meeting of fiscal year 2027 in the joint meeting, and adjourn the business meeting and reconvene on a date to be determined during the joint business meeting. Being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. The business meeting adjourned at 9:26 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Laura Sullivan.

J. Douglas Williams, Presiding Officer

Charles M. Perine, Executive Director