



Meeting Minutes of the State of Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

Education and Examination Committee

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 4717.03(A), the State of Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors Education and Examination Committee convened in Room #1960 on the 19th floor of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts at 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 for its regular meeting to discuss the Committee's business.

1. Convening of the Committee – Chairperson Rettig

Committee Chairperson Jon Rettig called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Executive Director of the Board Jarrod Williams recorded the following members in attendance: Amanda E. Crates, George Horne, II and Jon W. Rettig, Sr.

William C. Wappner was not present at the meeting. William C. Wappner's absence was made known in advance and thus excused.

In attendance at the meeting were Board Members Edward Nurre, Adriana Sfalcin and Thomas Taneff, Assistant Attorney General William Kovaleski, Andrew Allman and Amy Baucher of Ohio Funeral Directors Association, Board Staff Derek Bogner, Kim Bourk, Kim Grossman and Melissa Keefer.

Chairperson Rettig welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Committee Business

Chairperson Rettig presented the February 19, 2025 committee meeting minutes.

Amanda Crates moved for the Committee to approve a recommendation to the Board to approve the February 19, 2025 committee meeting minutes as presented. George Horne seconded the motion.

Chairperson Rettig called for discussion after the motion. There was none.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Jon Rettig

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 3/0

Chairperson Rettig stated he reviewed the list of Continuing Education providers. Kim Bourk responded to Mr. Rettig's question whether she was sitting in on any of the continuing education webinars. Ms. Bourk stated there were new applications and webinars that she does sit in on and things are moving in the right direction.



Amanda Crates moved for the Committee to approve a recommendation to the Board to approve the Continuing Education applications as presented. George Horne seconded the motion.

Chairperson Rettig called for discussion after the motion. There was none.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Jon Rettig

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 3/0

Chairperson Rettig stated there were no applications for 50 Years of Licensure CE Exemption, applications for Separation from Practice CE Exemption or applications for Medical/Undue Hardship Waivers from continuing education requirements.

Chairperson Rettig presented three Requests for Out-of-State CE Credit of continuing education programs.

Amanda Crates moved for the Committee to approve a recommendation to the Board to approve the Requests for Out-of-State CE Credit for continuing education programs. George Horne seconded the motion.

Chairperson Rettig called for discussion after the motion. There was none.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Jon Rettig

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 3/0

Chairperson Rettig stated to Jarrod Williams he would like to have one to one half hour for next month's committee meeting to discuss the Ohio laws and rules examination in Executive Session. Mr. Rettig mentioned he and Mr. Williams attended the 121st Annual Meeting of the Conference in Palm Springs, California and provided information about examinations and the process of administering the tests. Both Mr. Rettig and Jarrod Williams agreed the seminar was good and they were thankful for the opportunity to attend.

4. Adjournment

Amanda Crates moved for the Committee to adjourn its meeting. George Horne seconded the motion.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Jon Rettig

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 3/0

The March 19, 2025, meeting of the Education and Examination Committee adjourned at 9:45 a.m.



**Meeting Minutes of the State of Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors
Preneed Recovery Fund Committee
Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 10:00 a.m.**

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 4717.03(A), the State of Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors Preneed Recovery Fund Committee convened in Room #1960 on the 19th floor of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts located at 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 for its regular meeting to discuss the Committee's business.

1. Convening of the Committee – Chairperson Nurre

Committee Chairperson Edward C. Nurre, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Executive Director of the Board Jarrod Williams recorded the following members in attendance: Amanda E. Crates, George Horne, II, Edward C. Nurre Jr., Jon W. Rettig, Sr. and Thomas Taneff.

In attendance at the meeting were Board Member Adriana Sfalcin, Assistant Attorney General William Kovaleski, Andrew Allman and Amy Baucher of Ohio Funeral Directors Association and Board Staff Derek Bogner, Kim Bourk, Kim Grossman and Melissa Keefer.

Chairperson Nurre welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Committee Business

Chairperson Nurre presented the February 19, 2025 committee meeting minutes and requested a motion to approve.

Thomas Taneff moved for the Committee to approve a recommendation to the Board to approve the February 19, 2025 committee meeting minutes as presented. Amanda Crates seconded the motion.

Chairperson Nurre called for discussion after the motion. There was none.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Thomas Taneff
Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Chairperson Nurre stated the process and overview of the Preneed Recovery Fund Committee. Mr. Nurre stated there were three applications for reimbursement to discuss before the Committee.



Chairperson Nurre referred to the Board's Preneed Compliance Administrator/Analyst Derek Bogner to present the application for reimbursement in case CO2025-2537prf before the Committee. Mr. Bogner stated to the Committee a recommendation to deny the application because the individual responsible for the financial loss was not a licensee under Chapter 4717 of the Revised Code.

Mr. Nurre inquired if "R.C." served time for the misappropriation of funds. Andrew Allman responded that "R.C." did not serve time but received 7-10 years' probation and ordered to make restitution for the misappropriated funds. Mr. Nurre stated the funds were misappropriated by the individual handling the trust, not a funeral director and the Board has no authority or jurisdiction over the trust.

Thomas Taneff moved for the Committee to approve a recommendation to the Board to deny the application for reimbursement from the Preneed Recovery Fund in case number CO2025-2537prf. Amanda Crates seconded the motion.

Committee members discussed concerns involving Gold Cross Trust and recommended the Board office attempt to identify funeral homes who may potentially be affected by the court's ruling on the case involving "R.C." and communicate to those funeral homes about their responsibility for choosing to use Gold Cross. It was recommended that the funeral homes may be liable to provide funeral services at their own cost, and forward the information to the Ohio Department of Insurance, and to OFDA.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Thomas Taneff
Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Chairperson Nurre referred to Derek Bogner to present the next case. Mr. Bogner presented the application for reimbursement in case CO2024-15600prf involving Wayne T. Lee Funeral Services who allegedly misappropriated funds in the amount of \$7,001.13. Thomas Taneff noticed the durable power of attorney documentation was not complete. Mr. Bogner responded he would reach out to the applicant. Mr. Taneff requested that all pages of the POA are received for future claims as the family cannot act without the proper documentation. Assistant Attorney General William Kovaleski responded to Thomas Taneff in regard to the appropriate course of action for the motion.

Thomas Taneff moved for the Committee to approve a recommendation to the Board to approve the application for reimbursement in case number CO2025-15600prf and issue a payment in the amount of \$7,001.13 from the Preneed Recovery Fund pending the Board's receipt and Mr. Taneff's review of the whole document of Durable Financial Power of Attorney. Amanda Crates seconded the motion.



Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Thomas Taneff
Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Chairperson Nurre referred to Derek Bogner to present the next case. Mr. Bogner presented the application for reimbursement in case CO2024-14217prf involving J. Martin Smith Mortuary allegedly misappropriated funds in the amount of \$4,760.39. It was noticed by board members that the assignment in the documentation was incorrect. Mr. Bogner apologized and stated the funds were assigned to go to Smoot Funeral Services and not Diehl-Whittaker Funeral Service.

Amanda Crates moved for the Committee to approve a recommendation to the Board to approve the application for reimbursement in case number CO2025-14217prf and issue a payment in the amount of \$4,760.39 from the Preneed Recovery Fund. Thomas Taneff seconded the motion.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Thomas Taneff
Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

There was discussion among board members about a recent communication sent to Derek Bogner from Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Jennifer Deering of Hamilton County, Ohio regarding pursuing criminal charges against "S.K." Attorney Deering shared that her office must decline criminal prosecution based on a lack of criminal intent, difficulty in locating necessary witnesses and business records. Board members discussed their disappointment and suggested an affected individual would need to pursue "S.K." via civil court.

Chairperson Nurre asked if there was anything further to come before the Committee. There was none.

3. Adjournment

Amanda Crates moved for the Committee to adjourn its meeting. George Horne seconded the motion.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Thomas Taneff
Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

The March 19, 2025, meeting of the Preneed Recovery Fund Committee adjourned at 10:21 a.m.



**Meeting Minutes of the State of Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors
Board Meeting
Wednesday March 19, 2025, 10:30 a.m.**

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 4717.03(A), the State of Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors convened in Room #1960 on the 19th floor of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts at 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 for its regular meeting to discuss the Board's business.

1. Convening of the Board – President Crates

Calling of the Roll

Board President Amanda Crates called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Executive Director of the Board Jarrod Williams recorded the following Board members in attendance: Amanda E. Crates; George Horne, II; Edward C. Nurre, Jr.; Jon W. Rettig, Sr.; Adriana A. Sfalcin and Thomas Taneff.

William C. Wappner was not present at the meeting. William C. Wappner's absence was made known in advance and thus excused.

Assistant Attorney General William Kovaleski was present at the meeting.

President Crates welcomed all to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation *under God*, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Recognize Apprentices

Apprentices in attendance fulfilling the Board's requirement to attend one state monthly Board meeting during their apprenticeship were: Donna Garcia, Adonis Dalton, Julie Lilly, Abigail Neff, Kyah Rowley, Halle Goodson, Brianna Smith, Kelly Ortman, Thad Cole, Arthur Davis, Ahron Kushner and Alycha Malachin. All recognized themselves as requested by President Crates.



President Crates recognized the following guests: Andrew Allman and Amy Baucher of Ohio Funeral Directors Association (OFDA) of Columbus, Cathy Elkins of Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio (FCACO), Julie Neff of Swart Funeral Home of W. Carrollton, Ohio and Michelle Dawson of Diehl Whittaker of Columbus, Ohio. All Board and staff stated their names and positions with the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

2. Board Business

President's Report

President Crates explained that two of the Board's three committees met on this day and would like to move forward with the Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report

President Crates referred to Board Secretary-Treasurer Jon Rettig to present the Board's monthly report. Jon Rettig stated he reviewed the financial statement and asked if there was discussion and there was none. Mr. Rettig stated there was almost 2.5 million in funds in the Preneed Recovery Fund.

There was nothing further to report.

Executive Director's Report

President Crates requested Executive Director of the Board Jarrod Williams to present his report.

Jarrod Williams stated he provided his report for review. Mr. Williams added there was supplemented information provided for the Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program.

Mr. Rettig inquired when the deadline was for the Ohio Ethics Commission's Financial Disclosure Statement. Mr. Williams responded that the due date is May 15, 2025. Thomas Taneff recommended reminding everyone of the deadline every couple of weeks. Jon Rettig mentioned for licensees to count toward ethics.

Education Examination Committee

Jon Rettig stated that the Committee had a short meeting and approved a list of applications for Continuing Education programs and three applications for Out-of-State CE Credit. Mr. Rettig mentioned that the Board is close to having a revised Ohio laws and rules exam completed and



would like to bring to the Committee next month to discuss revision to the exam. Mr. Rettig stated he would like to have an Executive Session next month.

Committee Chair Jon Rettig moved for the Board to approve a recommendation from the Committee to the Board, in one vote, all applications for Continuing Education programs and three individual requests for Out-of-State CE Credit for continuing education programs. There were no requests for 50 Years of Licensure CE Exemption, Separation from Practice from Continuing Education Requirements or Medical/Undue Hardship Waiver of CE requirements.

President Crates called for discussion after the motion. There was none.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

President Crates thanked Jon Rettig for all his time and effort he has put in on testing.

JCARR Rules Review Committee

President Crates stated the JCARR Rules Review Committee did not meet.

Preneed Recovery Committee

President Crates referred to Edward Nurre for his report of the Board's Preneed Recovery Fund Committee.

Committee Chair Edward Nurre stated the Committee met this morning and approved the minutes from February 19, 2024, meeting and discussed three applications that were before them involving prearrangements with evidence to suggest that funding had been misappropriated. Mr. Nurre provided information to the Board about the following applications for reimbursement from the Preneed Recovery Fund.

The Committee denied the application for reimbursement in case number CO2025-2537prf because the individual responsible for the financial loss was not a licensee under Chapter 4717 of the Revised Code. The Committee considered the application for reimbursement in case number CO2024-15600prf involving Wayne T. Lee Funeral Home who allegedly misappropriated funds with no record found to be with the insurance company. The Committee approved a recommendation to the Board to approve a reimbursement payment in the amount of \$7,001.13 only after all the pages of the POA are received and reviewed. The Committee considered the application for reimbursement in case number CO2024-147217prf involving J. Martin Smith Mortuary.



Mr. Nurre spoke of a Columbus Dispatch article published many years ago involving the funeral home. The Committee approved to recommend to the Board a reimbursement in the amount of \$4,760.39 assigned to Smoot Funeral Home.

Committee Chair Edward Nurre moved for the Board to approve the Committee's recommendations to deny the application for reimbursement in CO2025-2537prf, and to approve the applications for reimbursement in cases CO2024-15600prf pending receipt and review of the POA documentation, and CO2024-14217prf.

Mr. Nurre asked if there was any discussion. Jon Rettig suggested that Derek Bogner inform the applicant in case number CO2025-2537prf to contact the Ohio Department of Insurance about restitution.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff
Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Minutes

President Crates presented the February 19, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes.

Adriana Sfalcin moved for the Board to approve the meeting minutes from the February 19, 2025 Board Meeting. Edward Nurre seconded the motion.

President Crates called for discussion after the motion. There was none.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff
Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Licenses

Applications for Individual Licensure

President Crates referred to the list of individuals applying for initial licensure, Embalmer and/or Funeral Director licensure.

Thomas Taneff moved for the Board to approve the applications for initial licensure Embalmer and/or Funeral Director licensure. George Horne seconded the motion.

President Crates called for discussion after the motion. There was none.



Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Crematory Operator Permits

President Crates referred to the list of individuals applying for Crematory Operator Permits.

Thomas Taneff moved for the Board to approve the applications for Crematory Operator Permits. George Horne seconded the motion.

President Crates called for discussion after the motion. There was none.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

License Inactivation and Courtesy Card Permits

President Crates referred to the individual requesting License Inactivation and the individual applying for Courtesy Card Permit.

Thomas Taneff moved for the Board to approve the requests from the individual requesting License Inactivation and the individual applying for Courtesy Card Permit. George Horne seconded the motion.

President Crates called for discussion after the motion. There was none.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Apprenticeship Certification

President Crates referred to the list of individuals applying for Embalmer and/or Funeral Director Apprenticeship.

Thomas Taneff moved for the Board to approve the applications for Embalmer and/or Funeral Director Apprenticeship. George Horne seconded the motion.



Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Facility Licenses

President Crates referred to the lists of individuals applying for new facility licenses because of AIC Changes Only.

Thomas Taneff moved for the Board to approve the applications for all new facility licenses because of AIC Changes Only. George Horne seconded the motion.

President Crates called for discussion after the motion. There was none.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Facility Licenses – AIC and Name Changes

President Crates read the names of individuals applying for AIC and Name Changes.

Thomas Taneff moved for the Board to approve the applications for AIC and Name Changes. George Horne seconded the motion.

President Crates called for discussion after the motion. There was none.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Facility License Closure

President Crates read the names of the individuals requesting facility License Closure and included there are no cremated remains and preneeds at the facility.

Thomas Taneff moved for the Board to approve the requests for Facility License Closure. Jon Rettig seconded the motion.

Edward Nurre inquired about how the information was received regarding the cremated remains and preneeds.



Jarrod Williams responded that Inspector Troy Seehase inspected the facility. Mr. Nurre mentioned the concern to tighten up the procedure to obtain this information. Amanda Crates agreed and stated the concern regarding the preneed reports and historical data.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Facility Licenses

President Crates referred to the three individuals applying for new facility licenses.

Thomas Taneff moved for the Board to approve the applications for all new facility licenses. George Horne seconded the motion.

President Crates called for discussion after the motion. There was none.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Facility Name Change

President Crates read the name of the individual requesting a Facility Name Change.

Jon Rettig moved for the Board to approve the request for a Facility Name Change. George Horne seconded the motion.

Ms. Crates inquired of the name change. Kim Grossman stated the name change was a correction to match the Secretary of State's information.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Requests for supervision of more than one apprenticeship at one time

President Crates stated there was a request from a master embalmer or master funeral director to oversee more than one apprenticeship at one time. Ms. Crates welcomed Kelsey Haskins-Zeroski of Sunset Funeral Services, Inc. of North Olmsted, Ohio to speak about her request.



Ms. Zeroski spoke regarding her request to oversee more than one apprenticeship at one time. Ms. Zeroski has been with the firm for five years and is currently a master over Brook Manzo who is finishing up her apprenticeship. Ms. Zeroski is requesting to serve as a master over an additional apprentice, Jennifer Coughlin. Jon Rettig inquired whether the firm had sufficient volume. Ms. Zeroski confirmed that the firm received 600 calls per year.

Thomas Taneff moved for the Board to approve the request to oversee more than one apprenticeship at one time. George Horne seconded the motion.

President Crates called for discussion after the motion. There was none.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Compliance

Ratification of Closed Compliance Cases

President Crates stated that compliance cases are recommended for closure after an investigation of the complaint indicated there were no violations of Chapter 4717 of the Ohio Revised or Administrative Codes.

Amanda Crates read the list of compliance case numbers for closure:
CO2025-0916, CO2025-0721 - CO2025-0604 (Same case, two family members), CO2025-0557, CO2025-0666, CO2025-2134.

President Crates called for discussion after the motion.

George Horne and Jon Rettig stated there was difficulty with the format to review the compliance cases. Mr. Rettig requested Jarrod Williams provide information about the compliance cases recommended for closure. Mr. Williams explained that complaints are investigated by the Board's inspectors. The inspectors conclude their investigations and present them at a monthly meeting to include the Board's legal counsel, executive director, and compliance coordinator. The purpose of the meeting is to review each complaint investigation and discuss the Inspector's findings. Based on the results of the investigation, the complaint is either recommended for closure or a recommendation is made to charge the licensee for a violation of the Board's law and/or rule. Mr. Williams stated that the Board has discretion to accept, deny, or modify any recommendation.



There was discussion among board members and Jarrod Williams regarding compliance charges that were omitted from the schedule. Statements of concerns were voiced by board members about the length of time to complete the action for chargeable compliance cases that have been waiting over an extended period of time for the requested hearing. It was recommended that the opportunity for hearings could be presented after board meetings on a case by case basis with the consideration of a court reporter to record the hearing proceeding. Board members discussed the possibility to complete apprentice interviews virtually. Board members confirmed their calendar availability.

There was discussion among board members, Jarrod Williams and Melissa Keefer regarding the format to provide board members with documentation and the consideration to omit unnecessary redactions to improve time and efficiency in the office.

Thomas Taneff moved for the Board to approve the recommendation to close all Compliance Cases as presented. George Horne seconded the motion.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Jon Rettig moved to approve authorizing Kim Grossman to schedule any 18-month apprenticeship interview for April 16, 2025 conducted virtually. George Horne seconded the motion.

President Crates called for discussion after the motion. There was none.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program

President Crates presented the Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program report with the recommendation to deny two applications for reimbursement.

Jon Rettig moved for the Board to approve the recommendation to deny the two applications for reimbursement as presented. George Horne seconded the motion.

President Crates called for discussion after the motion. There was none.



Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Attorney General Update

President Crates introduced Assistant Attorney General William Kovaleski. There was no update to report.

Upcoming Dates

President Crates read the list of dates with information associated to each.

Public Comment

Cathy Elkins of FCACO stated the graphic for the Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program was wonderful including inquired about a preneed contract she had questions about. Jon Rettig recommended for Ms. Elkins to bring in the contract for Mr. Bogner to review.

Jon Rettig moved to enter into Executive session Pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G) (1) to consider the employment of a public employee. Thomas Taneff seconded the motion.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0

Jon Rettig invited Assistant Attorney General William Kovaleski and Jarrod Williams to join, and the Board entered Executive Session at 11:40 a.m.

Jon Rettig stated Executive Session had ended and to return to the full Board meeting. Executive Session ended at 12:40 p.m.

3. Adjournment

Jon Rettig moved for the Board to approve to adjourn its meeting. Edward Nurre seconded the motion.

Roll-call vote: Yes: Amanda Crates, George Horne, Edward Nurre, Jon Rettig, Adriana Sfalcin, Thomas Taneff

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 6/0



March 19, 2025, meeting of the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Amanda Crates, President

Jon Rettig, Secretary-Treasurer



Executive Director's Report
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

- In January 2025, the Ohio Ethics Commission made available for filing financial disclosure statements for calendar 2024. You should have received an email from the Commission informing you and providing a link to get started. If you did not receive direct notification, please visit the Commission's website at <https://ethics.ohio.gov/> for information and access to file. The filing deadline is Thursday, May 15, 2025.
- Ohio House Bill 257 passed in December 2024 by the 135th General Assembly with the bill being signed into law by Governor DeWine on January 8, 2025. The bill included revision to section 121.221 of the Ohio Revised Code to allow certain public bodies to meet virtually. In part, the bill permits a public body to hold and attend meetings and may conduct and attend hearings by means of video conference or any other similar electronic technology, under certain circumstances. The effective date of the bill is April 9, 2025. A copy of a memo regarding revisions to R.C. 121.221 will be provided.
- The board's Preneed Funeral Contract Annual Report Form (green form) has been printed and mailed to funeral homes in the state. Any funeral home that did not receive a pre-printed annual report form in the mail, a blank copy is available on the board's website, funeral.ohio.gov for download to complete and mail to the board office.

A notice has been placed on the board's website addressed to those who have contracts with Assured Protection, Inc. It informs that no funeral director actually in charge of the funeral home will be deemed out of compliance if reporting attachments are not included with the completed form.

Due to the ongoing receivership process, Attorney Nikki S. Mesnard of Mesnard Law Office, appointed Receiver of Assured Protection, Inc. of Newark Ohio, is not able to provide reporting information.

As of the end of the first week in March, the board office has received over 200 completed forms. Completed forms are due to be submitted to the board office on or before Monday, March 31, 2025.

- Interviews with applicants to the Facility Inspector position were conducted in February. I've received excellent support from HR Manager Bethany Boston and Human Capital Management Analyst Jazmin Stone at the Office of Budget and Management Human Resources, Central Services Agency during the interview process. Together, we are moving through the hiring process.
- The Ohio Funeral Directors Association held their annual Legislative Briefing and Reception at the Ohio Statehouse on February 25. Board office staff Kim Bourk, Derek Bogner and Melissa Keefer attended. Ms. Bourk reported that OFDA delivered a presentation that included five of the association's 2025 Funeral Profession Initiatives. A copy of the memo follows this document.
- On February 26, the Ohio Ethics Commission issued a release regarding Formal Advisory Opinion 2025-01 which addresses the definition of "family member" to include domestic partners. A copy of the release follows this document.
- During the last week in February, Board Member Jon Rettig and I attended the 121st Annual Meeting of the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards. The meeting included several interesting presentations and discussions on current happenings and trends, and challenges, in the death care profession. There was much focus on the state of regulation and the role of funeral service regulators as some states are observing efforts to reduce oversight.
- On March 12, Board Member George Horne and Kim Grossman, the board's certification and licensure examiner, attended OFDA's Master Training Seminar at their office in Columbus. Ms. Grossman reported that Mr. Horne delivered a great presentation on behalf of the Board to a room full of attendees.
- Per Executive Order 2019-11D, State of Ohio employees are required to participate in annual instruction on Ohio Ethics Law. All employees will be enrolled within Ohio Learn's statewide LearnCenter to complete this year's training, The Ohio Ethics Law 2025: Searching Ethics. Completion of the training is due by Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

The Ohio Ethics Law 2025 training can be completed through Ohio Learn or by the e-course available on the Ohio Ethics Commission's website. An electronic certificate will be offered at the end of the course. This certificate may be submitted as verification of fulfilling the training requirement. A notice offering training options follows this document. If you've already completed the training, thank you.

Automated Reporting and Preneed Payment System (ARPPS)

Quarter 4 of 2024 reporting through March 06, 2025

Total contracts filed	9,337
Total fees paid	\$46,685.00

ARPPS/Preneed Recovery Fund (KeyBank) Account

Statement Ending February 28, 2025 \$40,975.50

State Treasury Asset Reserve (STAR Ohio) Account

Statement Ending February 28, 2025

Opening Balance	\$2,455,414.09
Income Dividend Reinvestment	\$8,459.84
Closing Balance	\$2,463,873.93
(CY) YTD Earnings: Income Reinvested	\$17,873.09

Preneed Recovery Fund Reimbursement

Start of program through February 28, 2025

Total applications approved	37
Total amount of payments approved	\$197,436.96

Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program (IBCSP)

Reimbursement application forms during February 2025

Total applications approved	39
Total amount of reimbursements approved	\$29,990.00



OHIO FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

WHO WE ARE

OFDA represents nearly 1,000 funeral homes and its professionals. There are 2,500 funeral directors and 1,800 embalmers in the state with a presence in all of Ohio's 88 counties.

Since 1881, the Ohio Funeral Directors Association (OFDA) has provided innovative programs, leadership, and excellent service to its membership. As one of the largest state associations for funeral directors in the nation, OFDA has become a conduit for promoting funeral profession standards.



2025 FUNERAL PROFESSION INITIATIVES

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- **TRAVEL PROTECTION PLANS**
- **FUNERAL DIRECTOR-ONLY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**
- **ADDITION OF CREMATION IN RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION LANGUAGE**
- **CREMATION AUTHORIZATION - REMOVAL OF MANDATORY WITNESS SIGNATURE**
- **OHIO MORTUARY OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM ASSISTANCE**

See reverse for details.

2025 FUNERAL PROFESSION INITIATIVES

OFDA REQUESTS AN AMENDMENT TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLANS

R.C. 4717.01 (T)

Clarify that travel protection insurance is not a preneed funeral contract

- Many funeral homes offer travel protection plans as part of the preneed process where if a death occurs more than 75 miles away from home, the travel protection plan would kick in to transport the remains will be transported back to a licensed funeral facility near their home at no additional cost. The plans are often provided by third-party service providers.
- The proposed amendment clarifies that travel protection plans are not included in preneed funeral contracts.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR-ONLY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

R.C. 4717.05(D) and (I)

Expand Ohio's workforce by creating an expedited pathway to licensure through a certificate program that includes a combination of instruction and training

- The proposed amendment to R.C. 4717.05(D) expands Ohio's workforce by creating an expedited pathway to licensure through a certificate program that includes a combination of instruction and training, while providing incentive of a reduced apprenticeship timeline following certificate completion.
- Like R.C. 4717.05(D), the proposed amendment to R.C. 4717.05(I) creates an expedited pathway to licensure to further grow Ohio's workforce by granting early apprenticeship application through the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

ADDITION OF CREMATION IN RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION LANGUAGE

R.C. 4717.12(B)(3) and (B)(4)

Clarify the exemption statute to include cremation and expand it to include additional religious facilities that are frequently used by funeral service professionals

- This proposed amendment will clarify the exemption statute to include cremation and expand it to include additional religious facilities that are frequently used by funeral service professionals.

CREMATION AUTHORIZATION – REMOVAL OF MANDATORY WITNESS SIGNATURE

R.C. 4717.24 (A)(17)

Remove the witness requirement for cremation authorizations and the form to delegate authorization, streamlining the cremation process

- In this proposed amendment, the witness requirement for cremation authorizations and the form to delegate authorization is removed, streamlining the cremation process and making the witness signature optional. With electronic systems in place for several funeral homes, the verification of witness signature is often difficult.

The above proposals are policy changes (no funding) in the state operating budget.

OHIO MORTUARY OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM ASSISTANCE

- Ohio Mortuary Operational Response Team (OMORT) is requesting state budget annual funding of \$75k to assist with trainings and equipment maintenance, insurance and storage.
- Ohio Mortuary Operational Response Team is seeking permanent housing in a central location for its equipment and resources for better preparedness during Ohio-based disasters that require dispatching of the OMORT team.

Merom Brachman, *Chairman*
Mark A. Vander Laan, *Vice Chairman*
Bruce E. Bailey
Megan C. Kelley
Mary M. Ross-Dolen
Elizabeth E. Tracy

Paul M. Nick
Executive Director



OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION
William Green Building
30 West Spring Street, L3
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February 26, 2025

For more information, contact:

Paul M. Nick, (614) 466-7091
paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION ISSUES OPINION INCLUDING DOMESTIC PARTNERS
IN THE DEFINITION OF "FAMILY MEMBER"**

At its meeting on February 20, 2025, the Ohio Ethics Commission approved [Formal Advisory Opinion 2025-01](#) which addresses the definition of "family member" to include domestic partners.

"The Ethics Law prohibits public officials and employees from hiring or supervising their family members," stated Executive Director Paul M. Nick.

Nick added, "This advisory opinion recognizes that 'family' could include domestic partnerships where someone is living with a public official or employee. Including domestic partners in the definition of family clarifies that the prohibitions in the Ethics Law fully apply to these relationships."

This opinion also reminds public officials of the importance of recusal from all aspects of the public contract process – including hiring – that would impact any of their family members and would apply the penalties for violating the law.

The Commission reviewed how other Ohio agencies and courts have considered the issue and concluded this opinion is consistent with many state and local agencies that have included domestic partnerships in their family-related internal policies.

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Ohio Ethics Law Training Options: 2025

Please note that all the following options meet the EO training requirement for both financial disclosure filers and non-filers.

1. E-Course: "The Ohio Ethics Law 2025: Searching Ethics"

- a. Our newest e-course is available on our website.
- b. Learner saves proof of attendance upon conclusion of e-course.
- c. *Note for attorneys:* The 2025 e-course has been approved for one hour of general Continuing Legal Education credit.
- d. **If you wish to enroll your agency for tracking purposes in OhioLearn's system, email OhioLearn@ohiolearn.ohio.gov** (not required, but an available option)
- e. SCORM package available to deploy the e-course in your own Learning Management System. Email nick.rohrbaugh@ethics.ohio.gov for information.

2. Webinars

- a. Our one-hour webinars are live, interactive, and provide proof of attendance.
- b. Webinar Options:
 - i. **Option #1:** *The Refresher Course* – overview of the law; good choice for new or returning public servants or those who need a “refresher” (offered once each month).
 - ii. **Option #2:** *The Ohio Ethics Law: A Deeper Study* – also one-hour long, but a good choice for those who already have a solid understanding of the law and want to go deeper through the study of Advisory Opinions (offered five times in 2024).
 - iii. **Option #3:** A customized webinar specifically conducted for your public entity. Email susan.willeke@ethics.ohio.gov to schedule.
- c. *Note for attorneys:* The first two options are approved for one hour of general Continuing Legal Education credit. CLE for in-house webinars must be pursued by the host agency.

3. In-house Ohio Ethics Law education sessions

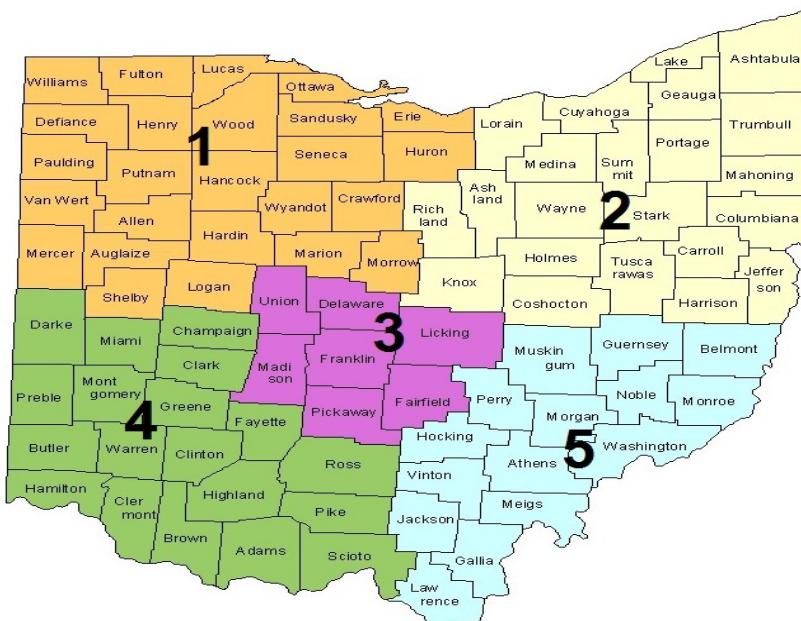
- a. If you would like to discuss the possibility of hosting an in-house session, please contact susan.willeke@ethics.ohio.gov
- b. In-person sessions outside of Central Ohio are reserved for groups of at least 50+ people (because we do not charge for our session, we seek to be good stewards of your tax dollars before traveling)
- c. CLE for in-house sessions must be pursued by the host agency.

4. Continuing Legal Education (CLE) – for attorneys only

- a. Three classes for public practice attorneys co-sponsored and conducted by the Ohio Ethics Commission and the Ohio Board of Professional Conduct
- b. Two classes are virtual, one is in-person
- c. All three classes are approved for 2.5 attorney conduct hours
- d. CLE classes conducted by the Ohio Ethics Commission fulfill the annual Ethics Law training requirement for state government attorneys

5. Statewide or Local Conferences

- a. State employees and officials attending a session conducted by the Ohio Ethics Commission at a conference have also met the annual requirement per the Governor's Executive Order.
- b. Attendees should notify their respective agency, board, or commission for attendance tracking.



Program Number Naming Convention

Program numbers are labeled based on location of the program and category (Ethics, Preneed, and Laws & Rules). The first number of the program number indicates the location of In Person programs based on the above map.

Program numbers beginning with O- are online programs.

Program numbers beginning with W- are webinar programs.

Program numbers beginning with 6- are out-of-state programs.

After the beginning number or letter the Required Categories are labeled, if applicable, as:

e – ETHICS, p – PRENEED, L – LAWS & RULES

PROGRAM TYPE DEFINITIONS for OHIO

In Person means instruction occurs when the instructors and participants are face to face, in the same location.

Webinar means instruction occurs simultaneously between the instructors and participants who are not located in the same place using a format in which participants are able to interact with the instructor through a question and answer format in real time. Webinar continuing education adds technology to live instruction through the use of an electronic, cyber, or a digital medium. Ex: Zoom

Online means instruction occurs when the instructors and participants are not located in the same place. Online continuing education adds technology to instruction through the use of an electronic, cyber, or digital medium. The learner can go at their own pace.

Ex: On Demand programs

MONTHLY APPROVED CE PROGRAMS

FOR

Ohio Licensees

2025 - 2026 Compliance Period

Programs Reviewed at Board Meeting: **March 19, 2025**

Current CE Requirements

Continuing Education Requirements for Compliance Period 1-1-2025 through 12-31-2026.

* Please be aware that CE hours do not carry over from one compliance period to the next.

6 hours must be: **In Person and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Private, In-Person programs DO NOT COUNT toward the "6-hour In Person" requirement.**

12 hours can be: In Person or Webinar or Online, Public or Private (**Webinars ARE NOT considered In Person hours**)

18 HOURS TOTAL

REQUIRED TOPICS

Of the 18 hours, 4 shall be in the following REQUIRED TOPICS:

1 hr of Ethics, 1 hr of Preneed Ethics Principles, 2 hrs of Laws & Rules

(Hours not specified as **Required Topic Hours** are considered **GENERAL HOURS**)

Licensees must contact the Program Provider to verify details, dates and availability of programs.
Contact information is listed, when available, for your convenience.

Reviewed at March 19, 2025 Board Meeting

Private programs are shown in RED. Private, In-Person programs DO NOT COUNT toward the "6-hour In Person" requirement.

Provider Name	Program Title	Program Number	Program Type	Total CE Hours	Categories: e, p, L&R	Effective Date	Expiration Date
Baxter Burial Vault Service Contact: www.baxterburialvault.com							
Baxter Burial Vault Service	Burial Vault - The Concrete Facts (Cincinnati, OH) - PRIVATE		PRIVATE	2	1 - e	5/20/2025	5/20/2025
Belmont County Funeral Directors Association							
Belmont County Funeral Directors Association	Preneed and the Funeral Home Industry by Jeffrey Dopp, Ohio Funeral Director and Pre-planning Specialist (Martins Ferry, OH) * What is Preneed? How Can We Utilize It For Our Business? * What is Preneed Life Insurance and How Does It Work? * Preneed Burial Eligibility for Veterans * The Renewed Focus on Preneed: Giving Consumers What They Want * Why Preneed Programs are a Must for Developing Long-term Strategic Plans for Funeral Homes		In Person	4	1 - p, 2 - L&R	3/25/2025	3/25/2025
Busch Funeral and Crematory Services Contact: www.buschcares.com							
Busch Funeral and Crematory Services	Alzheimer's Association Presents: Communicating Effectively (Cleveland, OH)		In Person	1		6/18/2025	6/18/2025
Central Institute for Educational Advancement (CIEFA) Contact: www.cifea.org							
Central Institute for Educational Advancement	The History of the North American Funeral Home (Carlisle, OH)		In Person	2		3/27/2025	3/27/2025
Cornerstone of Hope Bereavement Center Contact: www.cornerstoneofhope.org							
Cornerstone of Hope	Grief With Kids and Teens (Independence, OH)		In Person	2		3/20/2025	3/20/2025
Cornerstone of Hope	Creative Interventions for Grief (Independence, OH)		In Person	2		3/27/2025	3/27/2025
Funeral Continuing Education Contact: funeralcontinuingeducation.com							
funeralcontinuingeducation.com	Preneed in Funeral Services (Online)		Online	2	1 - p	3/19/2025	12/31/2026
Funeral Directors Association of Kentucky (FDAofKY) Contact: www.fdaofky.com							
Funeral Directors Association of Kentucky	2025 Spring CE Webinar (Webinar) 1. Reconstruction of Massive Head Trauma, 3 hrs 2. Regulations Update with the Kentucky Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, 1 hr 3. Your Annual OSHA Training / FTC Compliance Update, 2 hrs		Webinar	6	2 - L&R	4/16/2025	4/16/2025
Funeral Directors Association of Northwestern Ohio (FDANWOH) (formerly OFDA Dist - 6)							
Funeral Directors Association of Northwestern Ohio	Monarch Grief Center (Toledo, OH) * The founding, mission, and purpose of a community supported stand-alone nonprofit grief center		In Person	2		4/21/2025	4/21/2025

Funeral Directors Life Insurance Company (FDLIC) Contact: www.funeraldirectorslife.com

Funeral Directors Life Insurance Company	Ethical Issues for Preneed Business Disciplines - The Future of the Funeral Home Workplace (Canton, OH)	In Person	2	1 - p	3/20/2025	3/20/2025
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FuneralVision.com Contact: www.funeralvision.com

FuneralVision.com	Mastermind - Elevating Your Funeral Service Business to New Heights (Philadelphia, PA) 1. Succession is Not Just a TV Show - It's Preserving Your Legacy by Chris Kruger, CEO, Foresight, 1 hr 2. What Will and Will Not Work in 2026 for Getting More Cases by Welton Hong, CEO, Ring Ring Marketing, 1 hr 3. Competing on Service in a Price-Sensitive Market by Danielle Burmeister, VP, Marketing Communications, Homesteaders, 1 hr 4. The Future of Preneed Funeral Planning: Insights Into Consumer Trends & Technology Innovation by Mitch Smith, VP Sales Operations, eFuneral, 1-p hr 5. Content Creation Boot Camp for Funeral Professionals: Building Trust and Growing Your Business by Aaron Butler, Director - Field Development, Domani Preneed, 1 hr	In Person	5	1 - p	9/11/2025	9/11/2025
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International Cemetery, Cremation & Funeral Association (ICCFA) Contact: www.iccfa.com

International Cemetery, Cremation & Funeral Association	The ICCFA Experience 2025 (Las Vegas, NV) (the following list includes breakout sessions) 1. Tough Love for the Telephone - A Gut Check on the Call Experience, 1 hr 2. Strategies for Attracting and Retaining Talent in the Deathcare Profession, 1 hr 3. Serving Comfort: How Food and Beverage Can Feed Your Bottom Line, 1 hr 4. Power of Positivity, 1 hr 5. Catering: Feeding Your Revenue Roundtable, 1 hr 6. From Ashes to Meaning - Transforming Direct Cremation Into a Service, 1 hr 7. Creating Community Experiences Roundtable, 1 hr 8. Creating the Most Meaningful Experience When the Choice is Cremation, 1 hr 9. Keynote: I Love It Here - Create an Organization People Never Want to Leave, 1 hr 10. Creating Cultural Excellence Roundtable, 1 hr 11. The Art and Science of Bundling - Strategies to Grow Cremation Revenues, 1 hr 12. Making Call Volume Go Up When Death Rates are Down, 1 hr 13. Navigating the Intersection of AI and Empathy, 1 hr 14. Community-Driven Secrets to Reclaiming Leads and Increasing Call Volume, 1 hr 15. Reimagining the Funeral Experience - Leveraging Technology for Growth, 1 hr 16. Building Bridges - Funeral Homes and Hospice Collaboration, 1 hr 17. Turn Those Browsers Into Buyers: Making Your "Digital Front Door" More Welcoming, 1 hr 18. Conflict Resolution - Not Your Circus, Not Your Monkeys. But You May be The Ringmaster!, 1 hr 19. Touring the Possibilities - Turning Your Cemetery Tours Into Cemetery Sales, 1 hr 20. Better Than the Best: Creating a One-of-a-Kind and Remarkable Service, 1 hr 21. Consultative Arrangement (Sales) Training for the Modern Funeral Director, 1 hr 22. The Irwin W. Shipper Legislative Session and Reception, 1 hr	In Person	15		4/30/2025	5/3/2025
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International Order of the Golden Rule (OGR) Contact: www.ogr.org

International Order of the Golden Rule	2025 OGR Progress - Annual Conference (Riverside, CA) 1. Leadership Lessons from the Happiest Place on Earth, 1 hr 2. Modern Tools for Timeless Service: ChatGPT in Funeral Operations, 1 hr 3. Fostering the Future: Industry-Education Partnerships Supporting Funeral Service Students and Staff, 1 hr 4. Navigating the Evolving Landscape of Funeral Service: Hiring, Retaining, Motivating and Team Development for Business Growth, 1 hr 5. Future-Proof Your Funeral Home: Marketing for 2025 and Beyond, 1 hr 6. Funeral Arrangements to Die For: Best Practices of the Funeral Arrangement Conference, 1 hr	In Person	6		5/6/2025	5/8/2025
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Lifebanc	Contact: www.lifebanc.org						
Lifebanc		Advancements in Donation: Embalming Techniques, Tissue Recovery, and Reconstruction (Cleveland, OH) - PRIVATE		PRIVATE	1	4/16/2025	4/16/2025
Minnick Services	Contact: www.minnickservices.com						
Minnick Services		Cremation Law and Cemetery Law (Lynn, IN)		In Person	4	2 - L&R	10/29/2025
Minnick Services		Cremation Law and Cemetery Law (Fort Wayne, IN)		In Person	4	2 - L&R	10/30/2025
National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA)	Contact: www.nfda.org						
National Funeral Directors Association		Mastering Effective Performance Management of Employees (Webinar)②		Webinar	1	4/23/2025	4/23/2025
National Funeral Directors Association		Top Legal Issues for Funeral Homes in 2025 (Webinar)②		Webinar	1	5/15/2025	5/15/2025
National Funeral Directors Association		Annual FTC Funeral Rule Review (Webinar)②		Webinar	2	6/11/2025	6/11/2025
National Funeral Directors Association		Alkaline Hydrolysis for Newbies and Professionals (Webinar)②		Webinar	1	7/16/2025	7/16/2025
Ohio Embalmers Association (OEA)	Contact: www.ohemb.com						
Ohio Embalmers Association		OEA 2025 Spring Seminar (Cleveland, OH) 1. Embalming, Social Media and Bias 2 hr 2. Restorative Treatments for Difficult Cases, 1 hr 3. A Detailed Look at a Multi-death Crime Scene, 2 hr 4. When is it Time for Forensic Art?, 1 hr		In Person	6	5/7/2025	5/7/2025
The Independent Funeral Group (TIFG)	Contact: www.tifg.net						
The Independent Funeral Group		Respiratory Protocols - OSHA (Webinar)		Webinar	1	5/14/2025	5/14/2025
The Independent Funeral Group		Navigating Through Conflict (Webinar)		Webinar	1	5/28/2025	5/28/2025
The Independent Funeral Group		Crematory Safety Series #1: Gas and Fire Safety (Webinar)		Webinar	1	6/11/2025	6/11/2025
The Independent Funeral Group		Streamlining for Success: Efficiency and Workflow Optimization (Webinar)		Webinar	1	6/25/2025	6/25/2025
The Independent Funeral Group		The Sky's the Limit: Getting Creative with Cremation Families (Webinar)		Webinar	1	7/9/2025	7/9/2025
The Independent Funeral Group		Bloodborne Pathogens Training Series #1 (Webinar)		Webinar	1	7/23/2025	7/23/2025
The Independent Funeral Group		Crematory Safety Series #2: Crematory Apparel, Stack Monitoring and Using Fire Safety Equipment (Webinar)		Webinar	1	8/6/2025	8/6/2025
The Independent Funeral Group		Radioactive Seeds in the Deceased: What to Know and How to Safely Proceed (Webinar)		Webinar	1	8/20/2025	8/20/2025

Western Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association (WPFDA) Contact: www.wpfda.org

Western Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association	WPFDA 2025 Conference (Erie, PA) 1. Reconstruction Techniques and Airbrush Cosmetics, 3 hrs 2. Child Abuse, and, Recognition and Reporting, 2 hrs 3. Can We Embalm Better, 1 hr 4. Embalming, Soft Tissue Repair and Facial Restoration, 2 hrs	In Person	8	6/17/2025	6/18/2025
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Wilbert Funeral Services Contact: www.wilbertedu.com

Wilbert Funeral Services	A Snapshot Into Your Consumers: Attitudes and Behaviors that Define Your Future Business Model (Webinar)	Webinar	1	5/15/2025	5/15/2025
Wilbert Funeral Services	The Case for Proactive Preneed: Attract New Families (Webinar)	Webinar	1	5/29/2025	5/29/2025
Wilbert Funeral Services	OSHA's Formaldehyde Standard (Webinar)	Webinar	1	6/12/2025	6/12/2025
Wilbert Funeral Services	Introduction to Firefighter Honors and Benefits (Webinar)	Webinar	1	6/26/2025	6/26/2025
Wilbert Funeral Services	Community Outreach - Building Connections to Your Business (Webinar)	Webinar	1	7/10/2025	7/10/2025

REVIEWED: March 19, 2025

Requests for Exemptions and Waivers from CE

Requests for 50 Years of Licensure Exemption

<u>NAME</u>	<u>License Number</u>
None	

Requests for Separation From Practice Exemption

<u>NAME</u>	<u>License Number</u>
None	

Medical / Undue Hardship Waiver

<u>NAME</u>	<u>License Number</u>
None	

Requests for Out-of-State Credit

<u>NAME</u>	<u>License Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Description</u>
Victoria Raye Hall	FD.010402	2/6/2025	TX	Funeral Directors Life Home Office VIP Trip In Person, PRIVATE Abilene, TX 6 hours
John T. Feher	FD.008242 EMB.007907	2/7-2/9/2025	MD	Maryland FDA Mid Winter Retreat In Person Ocean City, MD 6 hours
Jay N. Amburgey	FD.007368 EMB.007907	2/18/2025	IN	Indiana FDA Relevance Conference In Person French Lick, IN 8 hours

March 2025 Board Meeting

New License Applications

Name	Location	Funeral Director	Embalmer
Apple, Ethan	Columbus, Ohio	FD.010459	EMB.010154
Linnen, Emma	Austintown, Ohio	FD.010460	EMB.010155

Crematory Operator Permits

Name of applicant	Location	Crematory Operator Permit number
Birckbichler, Aliya	Struthers, Ohio	CROP.001010
Booker, Searria	Dayton, Ohio	CROP.001007
Bushelman, Cameron	Carlisle, Ohio	CROP.001006
Edwards, Kerry Lee	Valley View, Ohio	CROP.001009
Gilmore, Timothy	New Philadelphia, Ohio	CROP.001008
Graham, Timothy	Canal Winchester, Ohio	CROP.001005
Hall, Kristie	Tiffin, Ohio	CROP.001001
Holston, Brenan	Cincinnati, Ohio	CROP.001003
McDowell, Mark	Amelia, Ohio	CROP.001004
Monroe, John	Girard, Ohio	CROP.001011
Quire, James	London, Ohio	CROP.001002
Stiggers, Tyla	Cridersville, Ohio	CROP.001000

Request for License Inactivation

Name of Licensee	Funeral Director	Embalmer
Schroder, Garrett	FD.010222	EMB.009987

Courtesy Card Permit

Name of Applicant	State currently licensed in	Permit number
Segrist, Michelle	Indiana	CCPM.000046

March 2025 Apprentice Certifications

New Apprentice Certifications

Apprentice Name	Certification #	Funeral Home & Location	Master
Bentley, Amanda	CERT	Swick Bentley Funeral Home, New Boston, Ohio	Lorenzo Bentley
Bright, Ashley	CERT.009514 FD	Ohio Cremation and Memorial Society, Columbus, Ohio	Samantha Armstrong
Coughlin, Jennifer	CERT. ***	Sunset Funeral Home, Brunswick, Ohio	Kelsey Haskins
Hall, Kristie	CERT.009513 FD CERT.007442 EMB	Hoffman-Gottfried-Mack Funeral Home, Tiffin, Ohio	Robert Mack
Hardbarger, Caylen	CERT.009517 FD CERT.007445 EMB	Farus Funeral Home-Duncan Falls, Ohio	Matthew Farus
Heitger, Thomas	CERT.009518 FD	Heitger Funeral Home, Inc, Massillon, Ohio	Catherine Heitger
Jordan, Jamiee	CERT.009515 FD CERT.007443 EMB	Mortuary Beekeeper, Cincinnati, Ohio	Senta Folds
Lambert II, John D	CERT.009519 FD CERT.007446 EMB	Newcomer Cremations and Funerals, Akron, Ohio	Robyn Deterling
Trubiano, Noah D	CERT.009516 FD CERT.007444 EMB	Toothman Funeral Home. St. Clairsville, Ohio	Jeffrey Toothman

** Certification pending board approval for master to have multiple apprentices**

March 2025 – New Facility License and Changes

AIC Changes Only

Closing license number	New license number	Name of facility	Current AIC	New AIC	Location of FH
FH.002656	FH.004142	Baker-Hazel & Snider Funeral Home, Inc.	Richard Snider	Abby Snider-Robinson	Dayton, Ohio
FH.003942	FH.004143	Baumgardner Funeral & Cremations Service – Andover	Pamela Baumgardner-Toth	Megan Riley	Andover, Ohio
FH.003918	FH.004144	Baumgardner Funeral & Cremations Service – Kinsman	Pamela Baumgardner-Toth	Megan Riley	Kinsman, Ohio
FH.003656	FH.004145	Borkoski Funeral Home – Adena	Randy Borkoski	Aaron Borkoski	Adena, Ohio
FH.002951	FH.004146	Borkoski Funeral Home – Cadiz	Randy Borkoski	Aaron Borkoski	Cadiz, Ohio
FH.002348	FH.004147	Brunner-Sanden-Deitrick Funeral Home	Nancy Brunner-Sanden	Jason Sanden	Mentor, Ohio
FH.003707	FH.004148	Clark-Kirkland-Barr Funeral Home Inc.	Clint Barr	Joyce Barr	Cadiz, Ohio
FH.003333	FH.004149	Criss Wagner Hoskinson Funeral Service	Richard Hoskinson	Richard Hoskinson	Newark, Ohio

FH.003936	FH.004150	Cunningham-Becker Funeral Home – Lowellville	Kelly Becker	Susan Pruden	Lowellville, Ohio
FH.003935	FH.004151	Cunningham-Becker Funeral Home – Poland	Kelly Becker	Susan Pruden	Poland, Ohio
FH.003934	FH.004152	Davidson-Becker Funeral Home	Kelly Becker	Susan Pruden	Struthers, Ohio
FH.003937	FH.004153	Davis – Becker Funeral Home	Kelly Becker	Susan Pruden	Boardman, Ohio
FH.002188	FH.004154	Galloway-Onstott Funeral Home LLC.	Donald Onstott	Robert J. Dillon	Burghill, Ohio
FH.003209	FH.004155	Hoskinson Funeral Service- Hebron Chapel	Richard Hoskinson	Richard Hoskinson	Hebron, Ohio
FH.003206	FH.004156	Hoskinson Funeral Services -Kirkererville Chapel	Richard Hoskinson	Richard Hoskinson	Kirkererville, Ohio
FH.003208	FH.004157	Hoskinson Funeral Service-Thornville Chapel	Richard Hoskinson	Richard Hoskinson	Thornville, Ohio
FH.003969	FH.004158	McPeek-Hoekstra- Hoskinson Funeral Service	Richard Hoskinson	Richard Hoskinson	Granville, Ohio
CREM.000096	CREM.000313	Miami Valley Crematory	Richard Snider	Brett Robinson	Dayton, Ohio
FH.003159	FH.004159	Roger W Davis Funeral Home	R Scott Davis	David Flowers	West Portsmouth, Ohio

CREM.000204	CREM.000314	West Licking Crematory	Richard Hoskinson	Richard Hoskinson	Kirkersville, Ohio
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AIC and Name Changes

Closing license number	Name of current license	Current AIC	New facility name	New License #	New AIC	Location of FH
FH.003058	Gompf Funeral Services	Gene Gompf	Gompf Funeral Service – Cardington	FH.004160	Gregory Gompf	Cardington, Ohio
FH.002866	Love - Heitmeyer Funeral Home	John Love	Love Funeral Home - Ottawa	FH.004164	Heather Love-Reynolds	Ottawa, Ohio
FH.002901	Love – Heitmeyer Funeral Home	John Love	Love Heitmeyer Funeral Home - Leipsic	FH.004165	Heather Love-Reynolds	Leipsic, Ohio
FH.002900	Love Funeral Home	John Love	Love Heitmeyer Funeral Home – Ft. Jennings	FH.004166	Heather Love-Reynolds	Ft. Jennings, Ohio
FH.003476	Mark A. Schneider - Gompf Funeral Home LTD	Gene Gompf	Gompf Funeral Service – Crestline Chapel	FH.004161	Geoffrey Gompf	Crestline, Ohio

FH.003477	Mark A. Schneider - Gompf Funeral Home LTD	Gene Gompf	Gompf Funeral Service – Galion Chapel	FH.004162	Geoffrey Gompf	Galion, Ohio
FH.003094	Werner-Gompf Funeral Services LTD	Gene Gompf	Werner – Gompf Funeral Service, LTD	FH.004163	Geoffrey Gompf	Mansfield, Ohio

License Closure

License number closing	Name of closing license	AIC	Location of closing FH	Cremains Y – N	Preneeds Y - N	Reason for closing license
EFAC.000012	Memory Lane Cremation Service	Keith Lippert	Columbus, Ohio	N	N	Sold to R. Day and turning into a funeral home. Has been inspected by inspector.
FH.003556	Showalter Blackwell Long Funeral Home	Ryan Kidd	College Corner, Ohio	N	N	Sold business and building

New Facility License

New License #	Name of new facility	AIC	Location
EFAC.000019	Adam Dwyer Funeral Trade	Adam Dwyer	Middletown, Ohio
FH.004140	Legacy First Funeral Services	Roger Meyer	Columbus, Ohio
FH.004141	Memory Lane Cremation and Funeral Service	Richard S. Day	Columbus, Ohio

Name Changes

License number	Name requesting to be changed	New license name	AIC	Location
CREM.000125	Private Cremation, LLC	Private Crematory, LLC	Marc Burr	Chardon, Ohio



**Ratification of Closed Compliance Cases
Wednesday, March 19, 2025**

Recommended Action: Motion to ratify the list of closed compliance cases as presented and confirm each case status as closed.

Complaints against an individual or facility licensed under Chapter 4717 of the Ohio Revised Code by the State of Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors may be filed through the eLicense Ohio Professional Licensure Portal or submitted to the board office via E-mail, United States Postal Service or common carrier.

In the following compliance cases, the board inspector concluded their investigation of the allegations within the complaint. Upon review of all evidence, the board inspector will not be recommending disciplinary action or charges for violations of Chapter 4717 of the Ohio Revised Code, or any rules adopted under Chapter 4717 of the Ohio Administrative Code in this matter.

CO2025-0916

CO2025-0721 - CO2025-0604 (Same case, two family members)

CO2025-0557

CO2025-0666

CO2025-2134

Therefore, the board office recommends the list of compliance cases as presented be closed with no further action.



Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program

- The Board has received 156 indigent applications in the online Airtable database since the reinstatement of the Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program from January 2, 2025.
- One county has reached the \$11,000 allotment.
- There are two applications recommended for denial for the month of March.

- Applications received: 156
- Reimbursed to date: 37 - \$41,890
- Approved/Pending 63
- On hold: 20
- Incomplete 25
- Pending Denials 11

Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program - Applications For Denial - 3/19/2025

County	Government Entity	App #	Reason
Greene	Jefferson Township	5210	Date of burial transit permit was 8/25/2023, prior to reinstatement of the program.
Summit	City of Akron	5229	Date of burial transit permit was 8/29/2024, prior to reinstatement of the program.