

IN THE MATTER OF
THOMAS CHAMBERS
Respondent
License Number M00670

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BEFORE THE MARYLAND
STATE BOARD OF
MORTICIANS AND
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

CONSENT ORDER
OF CONTINUING EDUCATION/FINE

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On July 11, 2017, the Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors (the "Board") conducted an audit of pre-need accounts at Chambers Funeral Home and Crematorium, where Thomas Chambers (the "Respondent"), license number M00670 is employed as supervising mortician. The audit was conducted pursuant to a Board order entered on July 14, 2016, against a licensee employed by Chambers Funeral Home and Crematorium. Following the audit, the Board had cause to believe that the Respondent, as supervising mortician, permitted an unlicensed person to make pre-need arrangements with consumers, potentially in violation of provisions of the Maryland Morticians and Funeral Directors Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. ("H.O.") §§ 7-101 *et seq.*

On October 3, 2017, the Respondent attended a pre-charge complaint resolution conference with Board representatives to reach a resolution of the case prior to the issuance of formal charges. The Respondent and the Board subsequently agreed to the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. At all times relevant, the Respondent was licensed to practice mortuary science in the State of Maryland under license number M00670.

2. At all times relevant, the Respondent has operated, and is the supervising mortician for, Chambers Funeral Home and Crematorium, P.A., 5801 Cleveland Ave, Riverdale, Maryland, license number E00345.

3. On July 11, 2017, the Board conducted an audit of Chambers Funeral Home and Crematorium, which revealed that an unlicensed individual met with consumers for the purpose of making pre-need funeral arrangements.

4. In an interview with Board staff, the unlicensed individual reported that on two or three occasions, she was provided with a blank pre-need contract and was instructed by the supervising mortician to meet with the customer and fill in with the arrangements. She was also instructed by the supervising mortician to subsequently have the customer sign the contract.

5. At the settlement conference, the Respondent acknowledged the truth of the allegations contained in these findings of fact and assured the Board representatives that, since the audit, the Respondent, as supervising mortician, ensures that the arrangements for pre-need funeral contracts at Chambers Funeral Home and Crematorium are performed only by a licensee.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent aided and abetted an unauthorized person in the practice of mortuary science in violation of H.O. § 7-316(a)(5).

III. ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby:

ORDERED that, no later than **NINETY (90) DAYS** of the effective date of this Order,

the Respondent shall pay to the Board a monetary fine of **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$1,500.00)**, in full, by money order or cashier's check made payable to the Board and delivered personally or by certified mail to the Board within **NINETY (90) DAYS** of the effective date of this Order. Failure to pay this monetary fine in full to the Board within **NINETY (90) DAYS** of the effective date of this Order shall constitute a violation of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall satisfactorily complete an **IN-PERSON PRE-NEED EDUCATIONAL COURSE** approved in advance by the Board and shall provide written proof of successful completion of this course to the Board within **NINETY (90) DAYS** of the effective date of this Order. Failure to provide written proof of successful completion of these courses shall constitute a violation of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall not make any pre-need contracts until after such date of successful completion of the in-person pre-need educational course required by this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall ensure that when an insurance-funded pre-need contract is completed, the insurance agent shall be present in the pre-need conference; and it is further

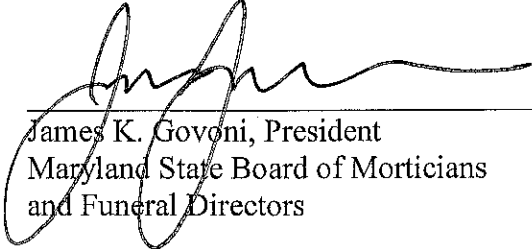
ORDERED that if the Respondent violates any of the terms and conditions of this Order, the Board, in its discretion, after notice and an opportunity for an evidentiary hearing before the Board, if there is a genuine dispute as to the material fact(s), or an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board, may impose any other disciplinary sanction which the Board may have imposed in this case under H.O. § 7-316 including probation, suspension, revocation, and/or

additional monetary fine, said violation being proven by a preponderance of the evidence; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent is responsible for any costs associated with the compliance of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that this document is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** under Md. Code Ann., General Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.*

1/16/18
Date

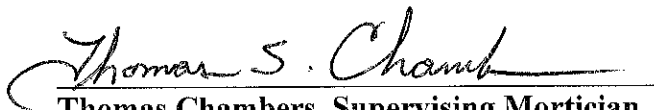


James K. Govoni, President
Maryland State Board of Morticians
and Funeral Directors

CONSENT

By this Consent, I acknowledge that I have read this Consent Order in its entirety and I hereby admit the truth of the Findings of Fact, and accept and submit to the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions. I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to legal counsel authorized to practice law in Maryland, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to request subpoenas for witnesses, to call witnesses on my own behalf, to introduce testimony and evidence on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law. I waive these rights, as well as any appeal rights under Maryland Code Annotated, State Government Article § 10-222.

I sign this Consent Order after having an opportunity to consult with an attorney, voluntarily and without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, terms, and effect of this Consent Order.



**Thomas Chambers, Supervising Mortician
Chambers Funeral Home and Crematorium, P.A.
License Number M00670**

NOTARIZATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 5th day of January,
2017, before me, Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, **Thomas Chambers**
personally appeared, and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order
was the voluntary act and deed of **Thomas Chambers**.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notarial seal.

SEAL

Joyce O. Chambers
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 01/02/21