

STATE OF INDIANA
BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF FUNERAL AND CEMETERY SERVICE
April 30, 2025, beginning at 11:00 a.m.
DRAFT

In-Person Meeting Location:

Indiana Professional Licensing Agency Board Hearing Room (Room W064)
Indiana Government Center South
402 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Sproles, Chairman
Kathleen Matuszak
Frank Downing

STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT: Nick Hart, Deputy Director
Ruth Hashu-Roorda, Assistant Director
Clarence Leatherbury, Deputy Attorney General

COURT REPORTER: Margie Addington

CALL TO ORDER & ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

11:00 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made and seconded. Matuszak/Downing 3-0-0.

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 6, 2025 AND FEBRUARY 11, 2025
MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**

A motion was made and seconded with corrections from Board member Downing. Downing/Matuszak 3-0-0.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Office of the Attorney General Report

Ian Mathew, Deputy Attorney General, delivered the report. The Board asked that a consumer complaint be filed against Crown Crematory in Crown Point, Indiana.

IPLA Compliance Division Report

Courtney Calvert, IPLA Inspector, delivered the report.

Administrative Hearing; Petition to Remove Probation

1. Jacob Richard Rhodes, FD22100007, 2023SBFCS0006
DAG: None
Respondent: Present and comfortable proceeding without counsel

A motion was made and seconded to withdraw probation. Matuszak/Downing 3-0-0.

Administrative Hearing; Petition to Reinstate

1. Wanda M. Lee, FD29700028, 2018SBFCS0001
DAG: None
Respondent: Present and comfortable proceeding without counsel

Respondent failed to provide evidence of completion of the CE required from her order. The Board advised Respondent to complete those hours and petition for hearing again.

Administrative Hearings; Motion for Order to Cease and Desist

1. Cloverdale Cemetery, 202504-FCB-0003 - CONTINUED
2. Lancaster Cemetery Association Inc., 202504-FCB-0004 - CONTINUED

Personal Appearance and Consideration of Application for Funeral Director Intern License

1. Jennilee McFarland

Ms. McFarland appeared for an application with a positive response. She had an OWI conviction. She presented evidence of meeting with a mental health counselor and compliance with her court order. She reports attending AA meetings to keep up with her recovery. She reported having insight into and regret for her actions. Her criminal probation is due to end in January 2026. A motion was made and seconded to issue the license on probation until completion of her criminal probation. Downing/Matuszak 3-0-0.

Personal Appearance and Consideration of Application for License Renewal

1. Kayla Battishill, FD20900085

Failed to appear. Withdrew renewal application.

2. John Patrick McGann, FD01009869

Failed to appear. A motion was made and seconded to deny. Downing/Matuszak 3-0-0.

3. Jeffrey Kaniewski, FD20200104

Kaniewski appeared for a positive response related to a criminal case for a domestic issue. The case resulted in a year-long pretrial diversion which was completed in 2022. He failed to disclose the arrest on his 2022 renewal. He reported the failure to disclose may be due to a substance use issue at the time and reports that he has since been to rehab. A motion was made and seconded to renew the license on indefinite probation for a minimum of 1 year with the requirement that he complete the crash review course on law. Downing/Matuszak 3-0-0.

Consideration of Application for Funeral Director license by Reciprocity

1. Scott Rolfes

Rolfes appeared to speak to his application based on his licensure in Ohio, where he has been licensed since 1998 as a funeral director and embalmer. His original passing score on his national examination was lower than the Indiana passing score. He still lives and works in Ohio but is working for a company that has a location in Richmond. Because Ohio requires the national boards, and he received a passing score based on their requirements, the board was comfortable issuing the license. A motion was made and seconded. Matuszak/Downing 3-0-0.

Consideration of Application for Cemetery Registration

1. Peavey Cemetery

No one appeared on behalf of Peavey Cemetery. The Board expressed concern that there was no amount noted in the perpetual care fund account. Because the cemetery was founded in 1896, the Board was alright with issuance of the registration. A motion was made and seconded to grant the registration. Matuszak/Downing 3-0-0.

Verified Complaint Requesting Restitution from the Preneed Consumer Protection Fund

1. Michael Staton of Rose City Funeral Home Macer Hall Marcum Chapel for Phyllis Reagan
Re: Josua Silvers, FD21700052

A motion was made and seconded to deny restitution because the seller is required to deliver on the contract. Matuszak/Downing 3-0-0.

2. Lisa Mascio-Thompson for Freda Mae Mascio
Re: Spring Valley Funeral & Cremation Service, FH12400007, Revoked

A motion was made and seconded to deny restitution pending proof that NGL did not pay on the policy. Downing/Matuszak 3-0-0.

3. Taylor & Cowen Funeral Home for Lillian Gaiser
Re: Porter Funeral Home, FH83006732, Closed

A motion was made and seconded to grant restitution of \$4,314.70 plus statutory interest to be paid once the applicant correctly completes and signs the form. Matuszak/Downing 3-0-0.

4. Christensen Funeral Home Winklepleck Chapel for William Joseph Day
Re: Winklepleck -Weesner Funeral Home Inc., FH83000655, Closed

A motion was made and seconded to grant restitution of \$10,000 plus statutory interest. Downing/Matuszak 3-0-0.

5. Palmer Funeral Home for Clifton Woods Jr.
Re: Clark O-Neal Funeral Home, FH10400018, Closed

A motion was made and seconded to grant restitution of \$7,025.55 plus statutory interest. Matuszak/Downing 3-0-0.

6. Calumet Park Funeral Chapel for Arlene Wozniak
Re: Kraft Funeral Home, FH10000005, Revoked

A motion was made and seconded to issue restitution of \$5,708.20 plus statutory interest once the applicant correctly completes and signs the form. Downing/Matuszak 3-0-0.

Correspondence from Brandon Snack Regarding the National Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards Arts & Sciences Examinations.

A motion was made to forward the complaint to the national organization on behalf of Mr. Snack. Downing/Matuszak 3-0-0.

Theconferenceonline.org
info@theconferecneonline.org
1885 Shelby Lane
Fayetteville, AR 72704

REVIEW OF CONTINUING EDUCATION SPONSORS AND COURSES

The Board noted that they do not usually provide retroactive approval, but would like to do so in this instance due to cancellation of the April 3, 2025, meeting. Board action is as follows:

NEW CE PROVIDERS:

Independent Funeral Group:

- A. Respiratory Protocols – 5/14/2025, 1 CEU, Non-law subject only per board action.
- B. Navigating Through Conflict – 5/28/2025, 1 CEU, Non-law subject only per board action.
- C. Crematory Safety #1– 6/11/2025, 1 CEU, Non-law subject only per board action.

- D. Streamlining For Success – 6/25/2025, 1 CEU, Non-law subject only per board action.
- E. The Sky's The Limit – 7/9/2025, 1 CEU, Non-law subject only per board action.

Funeral Directors Association of Kentucky, Inc:

- A. Reconstruction of Massive Head Trauma – 4/16/2025, 3 CEU, non-law
- B. Regulations Update w/Kentucky Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors – 4-16-2025, 1 CEU, non-law
- C. Annual OSHA Training and FTC Compliance Update – 4/16/2025, 2 CEU, Non-law subject only per board action.

EXISTING CE PROVIDERS:

Wilbert Funeral Services, Inc., CE21500018

- A. The Case for Proactive Preneed - 5/29/2025, 1 CEU, distance learning, non-law
- B. Beyond Words, What Funeral Directors Say Without Saying A Word – 7/24/2025, 1 CEU, distance learning, non-law
- C. Enhancing Cultural Competence in Funeral Service – 8/1/2025, 1 CEU, distance learning, non-law
- D. Securing our Legacy: Interns & Apprentices in the Modern Workplace – 9/4/2025, 1 CEU, distance learning, non-law

All Star Training, Inc. CE10800643

- A. Business Management and Ethics – ongoing, 5 CEU, distance learning, non-law

Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice CE20900924

- A. Mastermind: Elevating Your Funeral Service Business-9/11/2025, 5 CEU Non-law subject only per board action.

International Cremation, Cemetery and Funeral Service CE10800864

- A. IFCCA Experience 2025 – 4/30-5/2/2025, 15 CEU, non-law

Madison County Funeral Directors Association CE10800768

- A. Understanding Indiana Law – 2/18/2025 – 1 CEU, Law #2
- B. Burial Vault Merchandising – 2/18/2025 – 1 CEU, non-law

Minnick Services CE10800889

- A. Cremation Liability, Is Anyone Really Getting Sued -10/29/2025 – 2 CEU, Law #3
- B. Navigating The Cemetery and Funeral Home Relationship – 10/29/2025 – 2 CEU, Law #4
- C. Cremation Liability, Is Anyone Really Getting Sued -10/30/2025 – 2 CEU, Law #3
- D. Navigating The Cemetery and Funeral Home Relationship – 10/30/2025 – 2 CEU, Law #4

Continuing Vision LLC CE22400013

- A. Communicating Condolences – ongoing – 1 CEU, non-law
- B. Cultural Competences – ongoing – 1 CEU, non-law

Indiana Donor Network CE21600014

- A. Dr. Wolfelt Companionship the Mourner Workshop – 4/23/2025, 5 CEU, non-law

Frigid Fluid CE22200019

- A. Compassion Funeral Service – ongoing, 12 CEU, non-law (approved with 2024 outline)

Vermilion County Funeral Directors Association CE10800843

- A. Sexual Harassment – ongoing, 1 CEU, non-law
- B. Embalming The Challenge – 4/16/2025, 2 CEU, non-law
- C. Understanding Keepsakes – 4/16/2025, 1 CEU, non-law

International Order of the Golden Rule CE10800865

- A. Principles of Interior Design for Funeral Homes – 6/17/2025, 1 CEU, non-law, distance learning

Funeral Directors Association of the Falls Cities CE10800717

- A. Missing in America Project Funeral – 6/12-2025, 1 CEU, non-law

ADJOURNMENT

Next Scheduled Meeting:
Thursday, June 5, 2025

