IN THE MATTER OF
KAREN JAMES
AND THE ENTITY OPERATING AS
AFFORDABLE FUNERAL HOME, L.L.C.
LACOMBE, LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF EMBALERS AND FUNERAL
DIRECTORS

FILED: MAY 26 2022

Kim W. Michel
CLERK

FINDINGS OF FACT and DECISIONS of the BOARD

This matter came before the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors on May 10, 2022 for a ruling on the Admissions and Consents submitted by the parties in the instant case.

Present:

CHANEL R. DEBOSE, Prosecuting Attorney, for and on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

CHRIS LENTO, General Counsel, for and on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors via Zoom.

KIM MICHEL, Executive Director, for and on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

After considering the law, the evidence, the entire record of these proceedings, and the Admissions and Consents submitted by the parties to this proceeding for a ruling on the Admissions and Consents, KAREN JAMES, owner of the entity operating as AFFORDABLE FUNERAL HOME, L.L.C., RODNEY VICK, founder and owner of the entity operating as AFFORDABLE FUNERAL HOME, L.L.C., IRIS CHAPMAN, funeral director and manager of the entity operating as AFFORDABLE FUNERAL HOME, L.L.C., and the entity operating as AFFORDABLE FUNERAL HOME, L.L.C., all who waived their appearances to appear before the Board to be a part of the proceedings held on May 10, 2022, the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors rules as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

That KAREN JAMES is an owner of the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., (#2921) and, therefore, subject to the jurisdiction of this Board as an owner of the firm; RODNEY VICK is the founder and an owner of the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., (#2921) and, therefore, subject to the jurisdiction of this Board as an owner of the firm;

IRIS CHAPMAN is a licensed funeral director (#U-1724) and manager of the establishment operating as Affordable Funeral Home L.L.C., (#2921), Lacombe, Louisiana, and, therefore, subject to the jurisdiction of this Board: That evidence contained within the record of these proceedings, and the Admissions and Consents signed by the parties, reflect that Karen James, Rodney Vick, Iris Chapman, and the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C. are guilty of violating the provisions of: LA R.S. 37:848 (A) (Unlawful Practice) (Practicing without a License); LA R.S. 37:846 (A) (5) (Unprofessional, Unethical, or Dishonest Conduct) (Knowingly Acting in Concert with Rodney Vick to allow Rodney Vick to Conduct the Business of Funeral Directing); and LA R.S. 37:846 (A) (4) (Malpractice) (Neglecting to provide the Family with a Copy of the Firm's General Price List).

CONCLUSIONS

As to Karen James, Rodney Vick, Iris Chapman, and the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., the Board members found that Karen James, Rodney Vick, Iris Chapman, and the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C. violated the provisions of LA R.S. 37:848 (A) (Unlawful Practice) (Practicing without a License); LA R.S. 37:846 (A) (5) (Unprofessional, Unethical, or Dishonest Conduct) (Knowingly Acting in Concert with Rodney Vick to allow Rodney Vick to Conduct the Business of Funeral Directing); and LA R.S. 37:846 (A) (4) (Malpractice) (Neglecting to provide the Family with a Copy of the Firm's General Price List), as evidenced by documentation appearing in the file and the Admissions and Consents signed by: Karen James on behalf of herself and as owner of the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C.; Rodney Vick on behalf of himself and as owner of the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C.; and Iris Chapman on behalf of herself and as manager of the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., admitting that the following violations occurred:

1. **Karen James as owner of Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., Rodney Vick as founder and owner of Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., Iris Chapman as manager of Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., and the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C. violated LA R.S. 37:848 (A) by allowing a person, not certified and registered under the provisions of the Chapter governing the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, to embalm or pretend to practice the science of embalming, or conduct the business of funeral directing by allowing Rodney Vick to conduct the business of funeral directing.**

2. **Karen James as owner of Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., Rodney Vick as founder and owner of Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., Iris Chapman as manager of**

Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., and the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C. violated LA R.S. 37:846 (A) (5) for engaging in unprofessional, unethical, or dishonest conduct by knowingly acting in concert with Rodney Vick, an unlicensed funeral director, to allow Rodney Vick to conduct the business of funeral directing.

3. **Karen James as owner of Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., Rodney Vick as founder and owner of Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., Iris Chapman as manager of Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., and the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C. violated LA R.S. 37:846 (A) (4) malpractice by allowing Rodney Vick, an unlicensed funeral director, to engage in unlawful practice and neglect to provide the family of Frederick Jones, the deceased, with a copy of the firm's general price list.**

DECISION OF THE BOARD

Accordingly, for the reasons as stated and noted herein above;

IT IS ORDERED BY THE BOARD that Karen James, Rodney Vick, Iris Chapman, and the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C. are guilty of violating the provisions of LA R.S. 37:848 (A) (Unlawful Practice) (Practicing without a License); LA R.S. 37:846 (A) (5) (Unprofessional, Unethical, or Dishonest Conduct) (Knowingly Acting in Concert with Rodney Vick to allow Rodney Vick to Conduct the Business of Funeral Directing); and LA R.S. 37:846 (A) (4) (Malpractice) (Neglecting to provide the Family with a Copy of the Firm's General Price List).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that pursuant to LA. R.S. 37:850, the penalty statute applicable to these violations, which states: Whoever violates the provisions of this Part shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars, nor more than two-thousand, five-hundred dollars, and costs of the court reporter and attorney for the board for each offense, or by imprisonment for not less than thirty days, nor more than one-hundred eighty days for each offense, or both such fine and imprisonment, the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C. is fined the sum of Two-Thousand, Five Hundred ($2,500.00) Dollars for each of the above cited violations which amounts to a total fine of Seven-Thousand, Five-Hundred ($7,500.00) Dollars.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that Iris Chapman's funeral director's license (#U-1724) is suspended for thirty (30) days beginning June 7, 2022. The thirty (30) day suspension will expire on July 6, 2022.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that no Interns are allowed to work under the supervision of Iris Chapman (#U-1724) for the remainder of the year or through December 31, 2022.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that Karen James and Rodney Vick, owners of the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C. shall notify the Board of the name and license number of the manager who will be managing their firm during the thirty (30) days that Iris Chapman's funeral director's license is under suspension. The notification mentioned herein must be received by the Board on or before June 7, 2022.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that Kim W. Michel, Executive Director for and on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, is hereby ordered to perform periodic inspections on the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C. to inspect and to verify that that Karen James, Rodney Vick, Iris Chapman, and the entity operating as Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C. are complying with the orders of the Board during the time of the suspension.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C. and its owners and representatives, Karen James and Rodney Vick are to pay the sum of Four-Thousand, Six-Hundred, Fifty ($4,650.00) Dollars for the attorney's fees incurred by the Board for the handling of this matter from the date the matter was accepted by the Board through May 10, 2022, the date the Admission and Consent was accepted by the Board Members.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that the total assessed costs to Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C., Karen James, and Rodney Vick is Twelve-Thousand, One-Hundred, Fifty ($12,150.00) Dollars in fines and fees owed to the Board for the above cited violations. The above assessed fines and attorney's fees are to be paid by Affordable Funeral Home, L.L.C. and/or its representatives, Karen James and Rodney Vick within thirty (30) days of receipt of this decision.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY

Metairie, Louisiana
May 26, 2022

