IN THE MATTER OF
ANDREW STEVENSON
AND THE ENTITY OPERATING AS
GOLDEN MEADOWS FUNERAL HOME, INC.
ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF EMBALERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS

FILED: AUG 19 2021

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 for hearing on July 20, 2021.

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.

JOHN W. BECKNELL, III, Hearing Officer, for and on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

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

ANDREW STEVENSON appearing on behalf of himself and the entity operating as **GOLDEN MEADOWS FUNERAL HOME.**

After considering the law, the evidence, the testimony of the parties, and the entire record of these proceedings, and made part of the record before the Board on July 20, 2021. The Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors rules as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

That ANDREW STEVENSON is a licensed funeral director and embalmer, (#E-2139) and a licensed funeral establishment manager and the designated agent for the entity known as GOLDEN MEADOWS FUNERAL HOME, (#2301), St. Martinville, Louisiana, and, therefore, subject to the jurisdiction of this Board;

That evidence contained within the record of these proceedings, together with the testimony of the witnesses made within the presentation, reflects that the Board was unable to conclude that Andrew Stevenson and Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. was guilty of violating the following statutes: LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (14) for violating Louisiana Revised Statute 40:47 as it relates to

death certificates by failing to timely file a death certificate with the State Registrar within five days after the death or prior to the burial of Leonard Francois, Sr.; LA. R.S. 37:855 (A), as it relates to Louisiana Revised Statute 8:655, for failing to allow Mary G. Francois, the next of kin, the right to arrange her late husband's funeral goods and services with the firm by taking it upon themselves to select and arrange the funeral goods and services for the late Leonard Francois, Sr. without inquiring about prices and without approving prices with the family; and LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (5) for engaging in unprofessional, unethical, or dishonest conduct by filling out and presenting an insurance assignment contract to Mrs. Mary G. Francois in bad faith prior to being presented with any insurance policy information and details and without approving the total price with Mrs. Mary G. Francois;

That evidence contained within the record of these proceedings, together with the testimony of the witnesses made within the presentation, reflects that the Board was able to conclude that Andrew Stevenson and Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. is guilty of violating the following statutes: LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (14) for violating Louisiana Revised Statute 40:52 as it relates to burial transit permits by burying the deceased, Leonard Francois, Sr. without a Burial Transit Permit as provided and required by Louisiana Revised Statute 40:52; and LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (5) for engaging in unprofessional conduct by failing to present the Statement of Funeral Goods and Services Selected Contract to Mrs. Mary G. Francois for approval and signing during the process of making funeral arrangements for her deceased husband, Leonard Francois, Sr.

CONCLUSIONS

As to **Andrew Stevenson and the entity operating as Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc.,** the Board members found that Andrew Stevenson and the entity operating as Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. violated LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (14) for violating Louisiana Revised Statute 40:52 as it relates to burial transit permits by burying the deceased, Leonard Francois, Sr. without a Burial Transit Permit. The Board found the afore-referenced parties guilty based upon the documentation entered into evidence and the testimony provided by Andrew Stevenson. The Board noted that the death certificate introduced into evidence showed a date of issue for the burial transit permit of June 3, 2020, which was after the date of the funeral of March 20, 2020.

Furthermore, Mr. Andrew Stevenson admitted multiple times during the hearing that he did not obtain the burial transit permit before burying the deceased, Leonard Francois, Sr.

As to **Andrew Stevenson and the entity operating as Golden Meadows Funeral Home**, Inc., the Board members found that Andrew Stevenson and the entity operating as Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. violated LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (5) for engaging in unprofessional conduct by failing to present the Statement of Funeral Goods and Services Selected Contract to Mrs. Mary G. Francois for approval and signing during the process of making funeral arrangements for her deceased husband, Leonard Francois, Sr. The Board found the afore-referenced parties guilty based upon the documentation entered into evidence and the testimony provided by Andrew Stevenson. The Board noted that the Statement of Funeral Goods and Services admitted into evidence did not contain Mrs. Mary G. Francois' signature. Additionally, Mr. Andrew Stevenson testified that he never obtained the signature of Mary G. Francois on the Statement of Funeral Goods and Services.

DECISION OF THE BOARD

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

IT IS ORDERED BY THE BOARD that Andrew Stevenson, manager, and designated agent of the entity operating as Golden Meadows Funeral Home and the entity operating as Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. are hereby found guilty of violating the provisions of LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (14) as it relates to LA. R.S. 40:52 (Burial Transit Permits) and LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (5) (Unprofessional Conduct).

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, Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. and its representative, Andrew Stevenson, are fined the sum of Five-Hundred ($500.00) dollars. Five-Hundred ($500.00) dollars of the fine is suspended for the above cited violation of LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (14) as it relates to LA. R.S. 40:52 (Burial Transit Permits).

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, Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. and its representative, Andrew Stevenson, are fined the sum of Two-Thousand, Five-Hundred ($2,500.00) dollars. Two-Thousand ($2,000.00) dollars of the fine is suspended for the above cited violation of LA R.S. 37:846 (A) (5), (Unprofessional Conduct).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. and its representative, Andrew Stevenson, are to pay the sum of One-Thousand, Two-Hundred Forty-Seven ($1,247.00) Dollars for the court reporter's fees incurred by the Board for the handling of this matter on July 20, 2021, the date of the Hearing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. and its representative, Andrew Stevenson, are to pay the sum of Ten-Thousand, Two-Hundred, Eight Six Dollars, and Twenty-Five Cents ($10,286.25) for the prosecuting attorney's fees incurred by the Board for the handling of this matter from the date the matter was accepted by the Board through July 20, 2021, the date of the Hearing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. and its representative, Andrew Stevenson, are to pay the sum of One-Thousand, Fifty ($1,050.00) Dollars for the hearing officer's fees incurred by the Board for the handling of this matter on July 20, 2021, the date of the Hearing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. and its representative, Andrew Stevenson, are to pay the sum of Six-Hundred, Forty-Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents ($647.50) for the general counsel's fees incurred by the Board for the handling of this matter on July 20, 2021, the date of the Hearing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that the total assessed cost to Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. and Andrew Stevenson is Thirteen-Thousand, Seven-Hundred, Thirty Dollars, and Seventy-Five Cents ($13,730.75) in fines and fees owed to the Board for the above cited violations. The above assessed fines, court reporter's fees, hearing officer's fees, and

attorney's fees are to be paid by Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. and/or its representative, Andrew Stevenson, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this decision.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that should the costs not be received by the Board within thirty (30) days of the notification of costs due, then the license of the establishment operating as Golden Meadows Funeral Home, Inc., St. Martinville, Louisiana shall be suspended until such time as all costs are paid.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY

Metairie, Louisiana
August 19, 2021