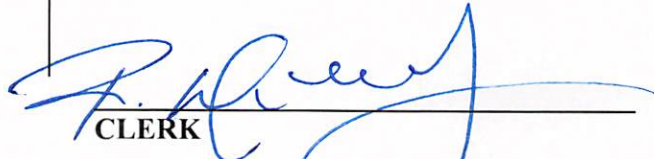


**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
EMBALMERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

**IN THE MATTER OF
DARLENE ST. ROMAINE
and the entity operating as
ST. EDWARDS FUNERAL
HOME
BUNKIE, LOUISIANA**

**COMPLAINT NUMBER
23.24.0033**

FILED: MARCH 27, 2026


CLERK

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND BOARD ORDER

The above-captioned matter was scheduled to come before the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (“LSBEFD” or “Board”) on March 11, 2026, for a formal show cause hearing for failing to comply with a Board Order pursuant to La. R.S. 37:840(A)(4) and La. R.S. 37:847.

APPEARANCES

The following were present:

DARLENE ST. ROMAINE, individually, and as the designated registered agent and owner of **ST. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME** (“Respondents”)

BOARD MEMBERS: STEPHEN BOUDREAUX, ANNA WILBERT-BREAUX, WILLIE DAVIS, JR., TROY DENNARD, CHARLES JOSEPH "JOE" EAGAN, III, TERRY LUNEAU, GREGORY MCKNEELY, AND KELLY RUSH SAVOY

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

CARRIE L. JONES, General Counsel, for and on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

After considering the Show Cause Order and applicable law, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Final Order.

JURISDICTION

The Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors has jurisdiction over the Respondent(s) pursuant to LA R.S. 37:840, which grants the Board authority to enforce the provisions of the Embalming and Funeral Directors Practice Act.

St. Edwards Funeral Home (#2993) is a licensed funeral establishment, and, as such, it is subject to the jurisdiction of this Board.

Darlene St. Romaine is the non-licensed owner and designated registered agent of the entity operating as St. Edwards Funeral Home and was a previously registered intern during the relevant time period and is subject to the jurisdiction of this Board.

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FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Darlene St. Romaine and the entity operating as St. Edwards Funeral Home (“Respondents”) were properly notified of the Show Cause Hearing via certified mail.
2. The matter was initially scheduled for a formal administrative hearing before the Board on August 7, 2025. In lieu of a formal hearing, St. Edwards Funeral Home and Darlene St. Romaine waived their appearance at the hearing and submitted an Admission and Consent, admitting to certain facts and violations of the Board’s rules and regulations, for the Board’s consideration.
3. The LSBEFD accepted the Admission and Consent and found two (2) violations of the Board’s rules and regulations. More specifically, the Board accepted Respondents’ admission to violating:
 - La. R.S. 37:846(A)(5) – Unprofessional, Unethical, or Dishonest Conduct, when Respondent deceived the LSBEFD by failing to abide by the Board’s previous order directing the firm to place a sign on the establishment’s door that is viewable to the public stating the funeral establishment’s license was suspended for three (3) months effective March 16, 2025.
 - La. R.S. 37:845(A)(5) – Unprofessional, Unethical, or Dishonest Conduct, when Respondent deceived the LSBEFD by failing to abide by the Board’s previous order suspending the establishment’s license for three (3) months effective March 16, 2025, by hosting a funeral at the establishment on April 19, 2025.
4. As a result of the violations, the LSBEFD assessed Darlene St. Romaine and the entity operating as St. Edwards Funeral Home \$16,867.00 in fines and attorney fees.
5. The LSBEFD’s decision was memorialized into written Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Board Order on December 19, 2025, which ordered the fines and attorney fees to be paid within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the Board Order.
6. Respondents failed to timely submit the payment in full and is in violation of the Board Order.
7. Ms. St. Romaine was present at the hearing and engaged in discussion with the Board. She stated that the establishment is operating with better staff and her goal was to stay in business. She submitted a check in the amount of \$5,000 and stated she was willing to set up a payment plan to pay the remaining balance.
8. Darlene St. Romaine and St. Edwards Funeral Home are in violation of the December 19, 2025, Board Order

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The board may refuse to grant, refuse to renew, suspend, or revoke any license or impose a sanction or fine in keeping with the penalty provision of this Part for any licensee or registrant when the licensee or registrant is found guilty of unprofessional, unethical or dishonest conduct. La. R.S. 37:846(A)(5).
2. “Dishonest conduct” is defined in La. R.S. 37:831(31) as a standard of personal behavior by a funeral director, or embalmer, or both, characterized by a willful distortion of the truth in an attempt to deceive, cheat or defraud.
3. “Unethical or unprofessional conduct” is defined in La. R.S. 37:831(85) as a standard of personal behavior by a funeral director, or embalmer, or both, or intern, or individual

working under the authority of a temporary license not conforming to accepted, professional principles of the funeral service profession.

4. Whoever violates the provisions of the Board's rules shall be fined not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$2,500.00 for each offense plus costs of the court reporter and attorney for the Board, or by imprisonment for not less than 30 days nor more than 180 days for each offense, or both such fine and imprisonment. La. R.S. 37:850 (A).

BOARD ORDER

After consideration of the Show Cause Order and Ms. St. Romaine's testimony, and upon motion, the LSBEFD affirmed, by a majority vote of those present and not recused, the following Order:

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that St. Edwards Funeral Home pay the outstanding balance, \$11,867.03 plus the attorney fees associated with the Show Cause Order and hearing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the total fine and attorney fees shall be paid by cashier's check or money order on or before September 30, 2026.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that monthly installment payments are acceptable.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that failure to submit payment in full for all outstanding fines and fees by September 30, 2026, shall result in **automatic revocation** of the establishment's license by the Executive Director subject to ratification by the Board.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the combined outstanding fine and attorney fees assessed against Respondent total \$13,157.03, which is inclusive of the additional attorney fees associated with the show cause order and hearing.

BY ORDER OF THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
EMBALMERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS


R. DeMale Bowden, Jr., CFSP, CCSP, LSBEFD
Deputy Executive Director

Metairie, Louisiana

Order rendered on March 11, 2026, and memorialized in writing on March 27, 2026.

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