

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

IN THE MATTER OF GREGORY STROTHER	COMPLAINT NO. 25.26.0019
and the entity operating as	<i>consolidated with</i>
WHITE OAKS FUNERAL HOME, L.L.C., OAKDALE, LOUISIANA	COMPLAINT NO. 25.26.0016

FILED: JULY 9, 2026

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND BOARD ORDER

The above-captioned matter came before the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (“LSBEFD” or “Board”) on July 1, 2026, in which Gregory Strother and White Oaks Funeral Home, L.L.C., (collectively referred to as “Respondents”), admitted and consented to the jurisdiction of the Board over this matter, acknowledged the Board’s power and authority to accept and enter into such decree, and waived their appearance and all notice requirements.

APPEARANCES

The following were present:

Board Members: Anna Wilbert Breaux, Troy Dennard, Gregory McKneely, Charles Joseph “Joe” Eagan, III, Terry Luneau, Stephen Boudeaux, Willie Davis, Jr., and Kelly Rush Savoy;

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

R. DeMale Bowden, Jr., Deputy Executive Director;

and

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

JURISDICTION

1. Gregory Strother (E-2031) is a licensed embalmer and funeral director in the State of Louisiana, holding License Number E-2031.
2. White Oaks Funeral Home, L.L.C. is a licensed funeral establishment in Louisiana, holding Establishment License #2696.
3. Gregory Strother was the owner, manager, and registered agent of White Oaks Funeral Home, L.L.C. (2696), Oakdale, Louisiana, at the relevant time.

4. Gregory Strother freely, knowingly, and voluntarily entered into an Admission and Consent individually and on behalf of White Oaks Funeral Home, wherein the Respondents consented to the jurisdiction of the Board.
5. Kimblery Strother (U-1501) is the current manager of White Oaks Funeral Home, L.L.C.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

6. On March 11, 2026, an Admission and Consent was submitted to the Board for consideration in lieu of a formal administrative hearing. The Board deferred action to allow White Oaks Funeral Home and Mr. Strother an opportunity to make the complainants whole and directed LSBEFD staff to provide a status update at the next Board meeting.
7. At a regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 21, 2026, LSBEFD staff reported that the complainants had not been made whole and that a subsequent demand letter mailed to Respondents' official address of record on March 25, 2026, had been returned as undeliverable. Based on the update, the Board tabled further consideration of the matter until its next regularly scheduled meeting.
8. At a regularly scheduled Board meeting on July 1, 2026, LSBEFD staff reported that three (3) additional complaints had been received against the Respondents and that the White Oaks Funeral Home post office box was no longer in service. LSBEFD staff further reported that the funeral home manager stated she would not respond to the complaints because the funeral home was no longer in operation.

FINIDNGS OF FACT

The following Findings of Fact as set forth in the Admission and Consent are adopted by the Board:

1. Gregory Strother is a licensed embalmer and funeral director in the State of Louisiana, holding License Number #E-2031.
2. White Oaks Funeral Home, L.L.C. is a licensed funeral establishment in the State of Louisiana, holding Establishment License Number #2696 in Oakdale, Louisiana, and with a branch location in Alexandria, Louisiana, holding Establishment License #2760.

Prior Board Action

3. On or about May 20, 2014, Gregory Strother submitted an Admission and Consent to the Board, wherein Respondent admitted that an unlicensed individual exceeded her authority and performed certain duties normally reserved and performed by a licensed funeral director. In connection with the Admission and Consent, Mr. Strother agreed to pay costs of the proceedings and a fine.
4. On September 18, 2024, Gregory Strother and White Oaks Funeral Home appeared before the Board in a Show Cause Hearing for not responding to complaints in Case Nos. 23.24.0034, 24.25.0002, and 24.25.0004. The Board ordered Respondents to respond to the complaints and to pay a fine of \$1,500.00 within thirty (30) days. The Board further suspended Gregory Strother's license for thirty (30) days.
5. On March 13, 2025, Gregory Strother and White Oaks Funeral Home appeared before the Board in a contempt hearing for failing to attend a preliminary conference in Case Nos. 23.24.0034 and 24.25.0004. The Board suspended Mr. Strother's license for six (6) months and assessed a \$5,000.00 fine. The Board also suspended White Oaks Funeral Home's establishment license for forty-five (45) days and ordered White Oaks Funeral Home to post a notice viewable to the public that the funeral establishment's license was suspended.

6. On March 18, 2025, the Board received a complaint and assigned Case No. 24.25.0039.
7. On April 29, 2025, the Board received a complaint and assigned Case No. 24.25.0044.
8. Case Nos. 24.25.0039 and 24.25.0044 were consolidated into a single Administrative Complaint and set for hearing on August 7, 2025. The hearing was subsequently continued to October 8, 2025.
9. On October 7, 2025, Gregory Strother and White Oaks Funeral Home submitted an Admission and Consent, wherein Respondent admitted to failing to comply with the Board Order in the contempt matters and multiple violations of the Board's rules, including preneed violations, in Case Nos. 24.25.0039 and 24.25.0044.
10. On October 8, 2025, the Board accepted the consolidated Admission and Consent for the contempt matter and Case Nos. 24.25.0039 and 24.25.0044. The Board rendered an Order assessing the following fines:
 - \$1,800.00 for eleven (11) violations of La. R.S. 37:846(A)(5) (unprofessional, unethical, or dishonest conduct),
 - \$4,500.00 for four (4) violations of La. R.S. 37:865(B)(2) (restrictions on use or disposition of funds, more specifically failing to deposit funds into a preneed insurance policy),
 - \$4,500.00 for four (4) violations of La. R.S. 37:865(B)(1) (restrictions on use or disposition of funds, more specifically failing to deposit funds into a funeral trust account,
 - \$4,500.00 for fourteen (14) violations of La. R.S. 37:865(D) (restrictions on use or disposition of funds, more specifically failing to file annual report of funeral trust account with the LSBEFD),
 - \$4,500.00 for four (4) violations of La. R.S. 37:865(B) (restrictions on use or disposition of funds, more specifically having access and use of personnel funds contrary to law.
 - Respondents were also assessed with attorney fees.
11. On March 11, 2026, the Board considered a Show Cause Order for failure to comply with the Board Order. Following the Show Cause Hearing, the Board instructed staff to pursue legal action against Respondents' NSF check and suspended White Oaks Funeral Home's establishment license effective March 23, 2026, for a minimum of sixty (60) days. The Board further instructed that the license shall not be reinstated until the fines and fees in the amount of \$46,646.95 set forth in the Board Order are paid. Additional attorney fees associated with the Show Cause Order in the amount of \$1,230.00 were assessed.

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12. On or around September 25, 2025, the Board received a complaint against Gregory Strother and White Oaks Funeral Home, L.L.C. from Gail Kegley alleging:

I have provided you with the documentation through email that included emails, text messages and the forms from when we originally pre-paid for the funeral arrangements for Ronny & Anna Faye Barnhart.

We pre-paid for my mother's and father's funeral with Greg Strother in the amount of \$19,630.00 on 2/21/2023. This included \$8,713.00 for each funeral and \$2,204.00 for the headstone.

We have been repeatedly told that the headstone would take a year to come in. However, in March 2025, Kim Strother indicated it would be 4 more weeks. As of this date, we have not received the headstone.

We have requested the return of the headstone and Ronny Barnhart's pre-paid funeral funds from White Oaks Funeral Home \$2,204.00 and \$8,713.00. No response regarding refunding the monies.

My mother passed away on 09/28/2024.

13. On September 26, 2025, Respondent, Gregory Strother, owner and manager of White Oaks Funeral Home, L.L.C. was notified of the complaint and provided an opportunity to respond to the allegations in writing.
14. On December 14, 2025, Respondent, Gregory Strother, submitted a written response dated December 12, 2025, on behalf of himself and White Oaks Funeral Home, L.L.C., responding to the alleged violations as follows:

We regret that Mrs. Kegley[']s] mother[']s] headstone was not taken care of as fast as she would have liked and I had explained to her on multiple occasions that it was taking about a year for the stones to be ordered and delivered after the Covid era.

They are great people and have always been family and friends. We will gladly refund the funds to them immediately. Thank you for your assistance. This problem will be resolved in the following week.

15. On December 10, 2025, at a regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Complaint Review Committee ("CRC") submitted a report recommending a formal hearing in Case No. 25.26.0016 without disclosing the Respondents' identities. The Board accepted the recommendation without knowledge of Respondents' identities.
16. As of December 17, 2025, White Oaks Funeral Home had not refunded Mr. Barnhart the preneed funeral funds nor had the headstone been placed at Ms. Barnhart's gravesite.

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17. On or about October 20, 2025, the Board received a complaint against Gregory Strother (E-2031) and White Oaks Funeral Home, L.L.C. from Dorothy W. Jeffers alleging:

My name is Dorothy Jeffers, and I am filing this formal complaint regarding a prepaid funeral arrangement I purchased from White Oaks Funeral Home in Oakdale, Louisiana on March 25, 2009. I believe I am the victim of financial misconduct or fraud by the owners, the Strothers.

On the above date, I met with Gregory and Kim Strother of White Oaks Funeral Home to purchase a pre-arranged funeral policy. I paid \$1,922.00 using a personal check made payable to White Oak Funeral Home as instructed by them. I was told this payment would secure my funeral arrangements and that the funds would be placed with Kilpatrick Life Insurance Company.

Recently, after hearing about financial problems involving the Strothers and White Oaks Funeral Home. I attempted to verify my policy. I tried contacting the funeral home at least seven times before I was able to reach anyone. When I finally spoke with the Strothers, they assured me that I had a valid policy with Kilpatrick Life Insurance. However, when I contacted Kilpatrick Life Insurance directly, they informed me that they had no record of any policy, paperwork, or payment associated with my name.

This leads me to believe that the Strothers did not properly forward my funds as required by Louisiana law governing funeral and burial arrangements. I believe my money was stolen.

18. On or around October 23, 2025, Respondent, Gregory Strother, owner and manager of White Oaks Funeral Home, L.L.C., was notified of the complaint and provided an opportunity to respond to the allegations in writing.

19. On December 14, 2025, Respondent, Gregory Strother, submitted a written response dated December 12, 2025, on behalf of himself and White Oaks Funeral Home, L.L.C., responding to the alleged violations as follows:

Dorothy Jeffers had been set up to be funded through Kilpatrick Life Insurance. Somehow, the file was put away by a secretary, and the funds didn't get properly taken care of. It was inadvertently filed and never completed. We will gladly refund her. We tried to get her insurance for it, but her age and health was not exactly insurable. We will give her a refund of 1,922.00 immediately. Please excuse this oversight. I never even said a word to Miss Jeffers when a vehicle registered to her totaled one of my hearses. I still have the car and report on that event. I never would do anything to ever harm her.

20. On December 10, 2025, at a regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Complaint Review Committee ("CRC") submitted a report recommending a formal hearing in Case No. 25.26.0019 without disclosing the Respondents' identities. The Board accepted the recommendation without knowledge of Respondents' identities.

21. As of December 18, 2025, White Oaks Funeral Home had not refunded Ms. Jeffers' preneed funeral funds. Ms. Jeffers reported that Mr. Strother told her that he would honor her funeral preneed arrangements.

22. Ms. Jeffers reported that she has since obtained an insurance policy elsewhere.

Cases Consolidated for Hearing

23. Case Nos. 25.26.0016 and 25.26.0019 were consolidated for purposes of filing an Administrative Complaint, which was filed on December 30, 2025.

24. Respondents were properly notified of the Administrative Complaint and subpoenaed to attend the administrative hearing scheduled for January 27, 2026.

25. On or about January 14, 2026, Respondents submitted an Admission and Consent to the Board for consideration in lieu of a formal administrative hearing.

26. The January 27, 2026, hearing date was reset for March 11, 2026, due to inclement weather.

27. On March 11, 2026, the Board received the Admission and Consent for consideration in lieu of a formal administrative hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. La. R.S. 37:846(A)(5) authorizes the Board to revoke any license or impose a sanction or fine in keeping with the penalty provisions in La. R.S. 37:831, et. seq., for any licensee or registrant when the licensee or registrant is found guilty of the acts or omission set forth in La. R.S. 37:846.

2. Respondents' admissions constitute dishonest, unethical, and unprofessional conduct as defined in La. R.S. 37:831(35) and (85).

3. Respondents violated La. R.S. 37:846(A)(5) and engaged in unprofessional, unethical, or

dishonest conduct when Respondents failed to prepare a preneed funeral contract with Dorothy Jeffers that conformed with the requirements set forth in La. R.S. 37:862.

4. Respondents violated La. R.S. 37:865 when Respondents failed to deposit Dorothy Jeffers' preneed deposit into a preneed policy, annuity, or trust account, failed to file an annual report of funeral trust accounts with the Board from 2009-2024 with respect to Dorothy Jeffers, and had access to or use of Dorothy Jeffers preneed funeral deposit.
5. Respondents violated La. R.S. 37:846(A)(5) and engaged in unprofessional, unethical, or dishonest conduct when Respondents led Ronny Barnhart and Anna Faye Barnhart to believe they had entered into a preneed funeral agreement when Respondents knew or should have known that the funds had not been placed in a prearranged funeral insurance policy or funeral trust account.
6. Respondents violated La. R.S. 37:846(A)(5) and engaged in unprofessional, unethical, or dishonest conduct in failing to correct the death certificate of the deceased Anna Faye Barnhart in a timely manner.
7. Respondents violated La. R.S. 37:846(A)(5) and engaged in unprofessional, unethical, or dishonest conduct in failing to return the preneed funeral contract funds of Ronny Barnhart within a reasonable time after the refund was requested.
8. Respondents violated La. R.S. 37:865 when Respondents failed to deposit Ronny Barnhart's preneed deposit into a preneed policy, annuity, or trust account, failed to file an annual report of funeral trust account with the Board from 2023-2024 with respect to Mr. Barnhart, and had access to or use of Ronny Barnhart's preneed funeral deposit.
9. Respondents violated La. R.S. 37:865 when Respondents failed to deposit Anna Faye Barnhart's preneed deposit into a preneed policy, annuity, or trust account, failed to file an annual report of funeral trust account with the Board from 2023-2024 with respect to Mrs. Barnhart, and had access to or use of Anna Faye Barnhart's preneed funeral deposit.

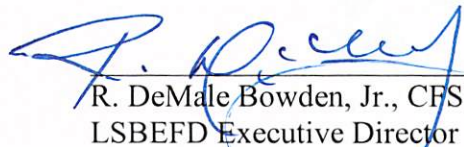
BOARD ORDER

After considering the Admission and Consent, upon motion, the LSBEFD affirmed, by majority vote of those present¹, the following Order:

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Gregory Strother's embalmer and funeral director license issued by the LSBEFD is revoked effective immediately.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that White Oaks Funeral Home, L.L.C.'s funeral establishment license issued by the LSBEFD is revoked effective immediately.

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


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

Metairie, Louisiana

Order rendered on July 1, 2026, and memorialized in writing on July 9, 2026.

¹ Board Chair/President Stephen Boudeaux was present but did not participate in the vote as the presiding officer. Board members Kelly Rush Savoy and Terry Luneau were present but recused themselves from the vote.