

**IN THE MATTER OF**  
**Stephanie R. Navarre and the**  
**entity operating as**  
**Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home,**  
**New Orleans, LOUISIANA**

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

**FILED:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CLERK**

**FINDINGS of FACT and DECISION of the BOARD**

This matter came before the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors for hearing on October 13, 2016 and December 7, 2016.

Present:

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

**DIANNE T. ALEXANDER**, General Counsel, for and on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

**HARRY VORHOFF**, Hearing Officer, Special Counsel for and on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Justice.

**S. Jones**, Hearing Officer, Special Counsel for and on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Justice.

**Deborah L. Wilson**, Attorney for and on behalf of Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home and Stephanie R. Navarre

After considering the law, the evidence, the testimony of the witnesses and the entire record of these proceedings, together with the admission into the record by Stephanie R. Navarre on December 7, 2016, and made a part of the record on behalf of licensee, before the Board on October 13, 2016 and December 7, 2016:

**FINDINGS of FACT**

That **STEPHANIE R. NAVARRE** is a licensed funeral director (U-1305), and is one of the owners and the designated manager of the entity known as Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home, New Orleans, 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 **Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home** is guilty of violating LA R.S. 37:865 (B) (2).

### **CONCLUSIONS**

As to **Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home represented by Stephanie R. Navarre**, the Board members found Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home violated the provision of LA R.S. 37:865 (B) (2) evidenced by the admission into the record on December 7, 2016 by its representative Stephanie R. Navarre that Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home failed to deliver a check written by Ms. Lucille Hunter in the amount of Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty-Five dollars (\$7,325.00) to Duplain W. Rhodes Insurance Company for the purchase of a preneed insurance policy no later than five business days after the expiration of the ten day right to cancel period provided in La. R.S. 37:864 (A).

### **DECISION of the BOARD**

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

**IT IS ORDERED BY THE BOARD THAT** Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home is hereby found guilty of violating the provision of LA R.S. 37: 865 (B) (2). Because Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home has been found guilty of the above violation, LA. R.S. 37:866 (A) which states: Whoever violates the provisions of this Part shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars, nor more than five thousand 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 eight days for each offense, or both such fine and imprisonment, is the applicable penalty statute.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD THAT,** Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home and its representative Stephanie R. Navarre are fined the sum of Five Thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for the violation of LA. R. S. 37: 865 (B) (2), the sum of Three Hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the cost of the court report for the October 13, 2016 and December 7, 2016 hearings, and the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$2,500) for attorney's fees for the October 13, 2016 and December 7, 2016 hearings for a total assessed fine of Seven Thousand Eight Hundred dollars (\$7,800.00). The above assessed fines are to be paid by Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home and/or its representative Stephanie R. Navarre within 30 days of receipt of this decision.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

---

SECRETARY

METAIRIE, LOUISIANA  
December 8, 2016