IN THE MATTER OF WILLIAM P. MACK AND THE ENTITY OPERATING AS RENAISSANCE FUNERAL SERVICES, INC. GONZALES, LOUISIANA LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF EMBALERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS

FILED: JUL 0 1 2021

Kim W. Michel

FINDINGS OF FACT and DECISIONS of the BOARD

This matter came before the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors on June 22, 2021 for a ruling on an Admission and Consent submitted by the parties.

Present:

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

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

After considering the law, the evidence, the entire record of these proceedings, and the Admission and Consent submitted by the parties for a ruling on the Admission and Consent, WILLIAM P. MACK and the entity operating as RENAISSANCE FUNERAL SERVICES, INC., who waived their appearances to appear before the Board to be a part of the proceedings held on June 22, 2021. The Louisiana Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors rules as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

That WILLIAM P. MACK is the licensed embalmer and funeral director (#E2251); designated manager, designated agent; and the owner of the establishment operating as Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc. (#2549), Gonzales, Louisiana, and, therefore, subject to the jurisdiction of this Board: that evidence contained within the record of these proceedings, and the Admission and Consent signed by the parties, reflect that William P. Mack and the entity operating as Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc. are guilty of violating the following provisions: LA R.S. 37:846 (A) (5), (Unprofessional, Unethical, or Dishonest Conduct); LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (4), (Malpractice); and LA. R.S. 37:848 (A), (Unlawful Practice).

CONCLUSIONS

As to William P. Mack and the entity operating as Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc., the Board members found that William P. Mack and the entity operating as Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc. violated the following provisions: LA R.S. 37:846 (A) (5), (Unprofessional, Unethical, or Dishonest Conduct); LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (4), (Malpractice); and LA. R.S. 37:848 (A), (Unlawful Practice), as evidenced by documentation appearing in the file and the Admission and Consent signed by William P. Mack on behalf of himself and the entity operating as Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc., admitting to the following:

- 1. William P. Mack and the entity operating as Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc. have allegedly violated LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (5) by engaging in unprofessional, unethical, or dishonest conduct by: Failing to bury the decedent, Frazier Wheat, pursuant to the contract entered into by the parties; by recklessly removing Frazier Wheat's body from his home; by failing to put the correct date of the funeral in the funeral programs, and by failing to provide the family with a funeral director and staff during the entire viewing process.
- 2. William P. Mack and the entity operating as Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc. have allegedly violated LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (4) (Malpractice) by engaging in negligence from professional duty or failing to exercise an acceptable degree of skill or learning as a funeral director, or embalmer, or both that resulted in injury, loss, and damage by: Failing to schedule Frazier Wheat's funeral services at the time selected by the family; by failing to appear and provide the family with a funeral director and staff during the entire funeral service; by failing to schedule the decedent's military burial at the time selected by the family, and by failing to provide the family with a hearse to transport the body from the church to the cemetery.
- 3. William P. Mack and the entity operating as Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc. have allegedly 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 Andy Hartley to direct and manage the funeral of the late Frazier Wheat.

DECISION OF THE BOARD

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

IT IS ORDERED BY THE BOARD that William P. Mack and the entity operating as Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc. are hereby found guilty of violating the following provisions: LA R.S. 37:846 (A) (5), (Unprofessional, Unethical, or Dishonest

Conduct); LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (4), (Malpractice); and LA. R.S. 37:848 (A), (Unlawful Practice).

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, Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc. and its representative, William P. Mack are fined the sum of Seven-Thousand, Five-Hundred (\$7,500.00) dollars, Two-Thousand, Five-Hundred (\$2,500.00) dollars for each offense for the above cited violations of LA R.S. 37:846 (A) (5), (Unprofessional, Unethical, or Dishonest Conduct); LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (4), (Malpractice); and LA. R.S. 37:848 (A), (Unlawful Practice).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc. and its representative William P. Mack are to pay the sum of One-Thousand, Six-Hundred Twelve Dollars, and Fifty Cents (\$1,612.50) 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 June 22, 2021, the date the Admission and Consent was accepted by the Board Members.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that the total assessed cost to Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc. and William P. Mack is Nine-Thousand, One-Hundred, Twelve Dollars, and Fifty Cents (\$9,112.50) 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 Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc. and/or its representative William P. Mack 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 Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc., Gonzales, Louisiana shall be suspended until such time as all costs are paid.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that William P. Mack, manager, owner, and operator of the entity operating as Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc., funeral director's and

embalmer's license, (#E2251) is suspended for thirty (30) days beginning, July 10, 2021. The thirty (30) day suspension will expire on August 9, 2021.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that William P. Mack, manager, owner and operator of the entity operating as Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc., shall notify the Board of the name and license number of the manager who will be managing his firm during the thirty (30) days that his funeral director's and embalmer's license is under suspension.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE BOARD that Jude Daigle, Inspector for and on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Directors, is hereby ordered to perform periodic inspections on the entity operating as Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc. to inspect and to verify that William P. Mack and the entity operating as Renaissance Funeral Services, Inc. is complying with the orders of the Board during the time of the suspension.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY

Metairie, Louisiana July 1, 2021