

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN EMBALMING AND FUNERAL DIRECTING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2025, OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Board Members Present in person:

Rebecca Ridley, Richard Gormley, Paul Phaneuf, Patrick Driscoll

Board Members Remotely Attending:

Board Members Unable to Attend:

Janet Leombruno, Public Member

DOL Staff Present in person at various times during the meeting:

Colleen Maloney, Acting Executive Director

Mike Ryan, Board Staff

John Hill, Board Staff

Peter Kelly, Board Counsel

At 10:02 AM the Chair called the meeting to order, and the Acting Executive Director noted the meeting was being recorded.

Read and Approve Minutes: The members discussed the draft June Board meeting minutes.

MOTION by Rebecca Ridley to approve. Richard Gormley seconded. The Chair called for a Roll Call Vote:

- Members in favor: Rebecca Ridley, Richard Gormley, Paul Phaneuf, Patrick Driscoll
- Members opposed: None
- Motion Passes

Welcome and Approval of New Applicants:

1. Funeral Home Assistant Applicants: Board members welcomed the following new Assistant Applicants:
 - Thomas J. Murphy
 - Michael J. Hagen
 - Randy Lewis
 - Roland Soucy
 - Sean Douglass
 - Maggie Esposito-Russell
 - Brian Martin
 - Heather Tatro
 - Matthew Mackeil
 - Bonnie Ward

- Kyla Gerard
- Peter Healey
- David Barry
- Adarra Martin,
- William Wharton
- Paul Creedon
- Parker Stanley

2. Embalming Apprentice Applicants: Board members welcomed the following new Embalming Apprentice Applicants:

- Samantha Caswell
- Richard Conte
- Sydney Roux
- Spencer Roux
- Jessica Wheaton

Applicants attended with their sponsors, and applicants without sponsors were invited to the next meeting.- The Board members reminded them of their duties and welcomed them into the profession.

3. Funeral Director Type 6 Applicants: Board members welcomed the following new Funeral Director Type 6 Applicant:

- Jacqueline Bertone

Applicant appeared with her Type 3 Director sponsor. She was duly sworn in by the Board members, reminded of her duties, and welcomed into the profession.

Executive Director Report:

The Acting Executive Director provided an update on pre-need complaints moving to prosecution. Board discussed increased discipline for second offenses. MOTION for a \$500 fine and 1 year probation for second offense made by Patrick Driscoll. Seconded by Rebecca Ridley

- Members in favor: Rebecca Ridley, Richard Gormley, Paul Phaneuf, Patrick Driscoll
- Members opposed: None
- Motion passes

Board Counsel Report:

Board Counsel provided an update on correspondence the Board received regarding referrals for flower companies posted on Funeral Home webpages, and the ability to provide referrals for certain services. Counsel noted it's a somewhat entrenched practice, and it would also become rather disruptive to Funeral Homes to completely pull this back. There is a way to view these flower sales as separate than a funeral related business. Flowers are not related to disposition of human remains, which is quite different from the purchasing of flowers online. Section 3.13.1 of regulations also note 'related to human remains'. Board discussed general practices and the difference between ordering flowers vs. the individual engaging the Funeral Director, and agreed with Counsels position.

- Motion for Counsel to respond with confirmation that that having a flower link on a funeral home website is not in violation of SECTION 313.1
 - Motion made by Patrick Driscoll. Seconded by Rebecca Ridley.
 - Members in favor: Rebecca Ridley, Richard Gormley, Paul Phaneuf, Patrick Driscoll
 - Members opposed: None

Discussion Items

- Draft of Regulations: Board Counsel provided an update on Regulations, and stated the Agency is starting their review of ways the regulations can be business friendly. Most items are also clarifications to current ambiguity in the regulations. Board reviewed the 9 proposed changes to the regulations that were provided in the Packet.

Public Comment: Margie Nolan stated she looks forward to providing public comment on the regulations.

At 11:46 am, the Board moved to exit the Public Session and enter Closed Session for the purpose of conducting settlement and investigatory conferences pursuant to G. L. C. 112, § 65C. Motion made by Patrick Driscoll. Seconded by Rebecca Ridley. The Chair called for a Roll Call Vote:

- Members in favor: Rebecca Ridley, Richard Gormley, Paul Phaneuf, Patrick Driscoll
- Members opposed: None

During closed session the Board took the following actions.

Cases

- 2025-000724-IT-ENF: Dismiss

At 12:04pm, the Board moved to exit closed session, to enter open session, and thereupon to adjourn the meeting:

Motion by Richard Gormley, seconded by Patrick Driscoll. The Chair called for a Roll Call Vote:

- Members in favor: Rebecca Ridley, Richard Gormley, Paul Phaneuf, Patrick Driscoll
- Members opposed: None

Documents used in public session:

- Agenda for the July, 2025, Open Meeting
- Public Session Minutes for June 2025, Board Meeting
- List of Funeral Home Assistant Applicants, Embalming Apprentice Applicants, and Funeral Director Type 6 Applicants, scheduled to appear before the Board at today's meeting
- Swearing in Statement for Type 6 Funeral Director applicants
- Report on Administratively Approved License Registrations
- Report on Administratively Approved Continuing Education Course Providers
- Pre-need Inquiry: Email from John Grunert to Peter Kelley, dated April 3, 2025, regarding funeral trust accounts
- Email from John Heald to Peter Kelley, dated March 18, 2025, regarding website-linked flower sales
- Red lined version of current Board Regulations

