

**MINUTES**  
**South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service**  
**Board Meeting**

10:00 a.m., October 5, 2022  
Synergy Business Park  
Via WebEx/Teleconference

**Wednesday October 5, 2022**

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

James P. Hodge, President, called the Crematory Task Force meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order on October 5, 2022 at 10:06 a.m.

**Crematory Task Force Members Present:**

Dr. D’Michele Dupre, of Chapin  
Homer E. Elwood, Jr., of Laurens  
Wayne K. Pratt, of Newberry  
Vonda Priestler-Orr, of Hampton  
Mr. Charlie B. Evans, of Abbeville.

Mr. Landis D. Price, II, of Leesville was unable to connect due to technical issues.

**SCDLLR Staff Present:**

Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Kyle Tennis, Advice Counsel, Office of Advice Counsel  
Amy Holleman, Administrator  
Norma McAllister, Program Assistant  
Matalie Mickens, Inspector, Office of Investigations and Enforcement  
Katie Phillips, Executive Assistant, Communications and Governmental Affairs.

**Members of the Public:**

Rion Rampsey, Executive Director, of the South Carolina Funeral Directors’ Association

**A. Public Notice**

Mr. Hodge announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. The meeting will be held via video and teleconference. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by telephone. For telephone logon information, please email [contact.funeral@llr.sc.gov](mailto:contact.funeral@llr.sc.gov).

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Hodge called for a motion to approve the agenda.

**MOTION:** Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Dr. DuPre which carried unanimously to approve today’s agenda.

**3. Introduction of Task Force Members and Persons Attending the Meeting**

The Task force members, staff, and all persons attending the meeting introduced themselves.

#### 4. Approval of Minutes from September 7, 2022

Mr. Hodge called for a motion to approve the minutes for September 7, 2022.

**MOTION:** Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elwood, to approve the September 7, 2022 Crematory Task Force minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 5. Discussion: Safe Cremation Act

Mr. Hodge opened the floor to discuss the Safe Cremation Act beginning with Mr. Tennis providing the parameters for the Task Force and stating the entities that have the authority to effect changes in the regulations and/or statutes.

Mr. Tennis stated that the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service, as part of its duties and responsibilities, has the authority to promulgate regulations through the appropriate channels/processes and identify issues with the statutes that adversely affects the protection of the public. It does not have the authority to change and/or lobby for changes to the statutes. Statutory changes can be introduced by the funeral service profession affiliated associations and/or the legislative body. The Task Force, however, has the authority to make recommendations to add, revise, or remove regulations that do not adequately protect the public.

As a task, the Task Force should consider identifying issues in statute and regulations associated with cremation matters and reviewing the regulations for gaps in enforcement that fail to or inadequately protect the public. This would include reviewing section 40-19-110, which broadly defines unprofessional conduct. In reviewing this section, the goal would be to strengthen the regulation by specifying a licensee's actions that would be considered unprofessional and/or detrimental to the public.

To begin this process, the Task Force would recommend that the Board issue a Notice of Drafting be filed and published in the State Register. This action would notify the public of potential changes to the regulations. Subsequently, the Task Force would review the current statutes and regulations, as well as researching other states' laws regarding the subject matter, then develop a list of identified issues in the existing statutes and regulations. The Task Force would present its findings and recommendations to the Board which would be available to the various funeral service associations.

The Task Force discussed the information presented by Mr. Tennis, including the crematory operator and inspections issues. Mr. Tennis informed the Task Force that a Crematory Operator's licensure would require a change to the statute.

#### **The Task Force established the following actions:**

1. Establish one of its goals to strengthen regulations for unprofessional conduct for licensees in section 40-19-110 – provide clarification and specification of the actions that are considered unprofessional conduct. Strengthening 40-1-110
2. Recommend that the Board issues a Notice of Drafting
3. Add in the Notice of Drafting the ability to amend crematory requirements and inspections
4. Conduct discusses for regulatory revisions, additions, and removals, in order to protect the public.
5. Review other states' existing laws and regulations
6. Education the licensees on what is expected and how to prevent adverse harm to the public
7. Crematory Inspections are authorized through 40-19-235, and 32-8-380 of the Safe Cremation Act. Review 57-14, Crematory Inspection Guidelines – increase frequency of inspections/randomly pull and review records.

8. Identify issues; inconsistency and revision needed in the Safe Cremation Act presenting a report to the Associations
9. Next meeting discuss identified issues, inconsistency and needed revisions to the Safe Cremation Act.

**MOTION:** Dr. DuPre made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elwood, to recommend that the Board issue a Notice of Drafting to update the crematory inspection guidelines and the unprofessional conduct regulations. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

The Task Force agreed to schedule the next meeting after the Funeral Board discusses the Notice of Drafting at the October 2022 meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for December 13, 2022 beginning at 10:00 a.m. through WebEx virtual teleconference.

#### **7. Public Comments (no votes taken)**

#### **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Hodge called for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION:** Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Dr. DuPre, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hodge, after ensuring there being no further business to discuss, adjourned the October 5, 2022 meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service's Crematory Task Force at 11:12 a.m.