



What's A Regulator & Why?

February 27, 2024

9:30am – 4:30pm (without any breaks)

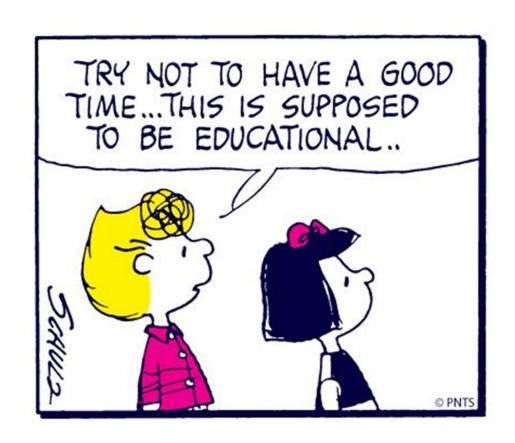
Myrtle Breach, South Carolina



















Introductions

- Name
- Board
- Role
- Length of time involved in regulation
- Tell us something about you unrelated to regulation or career.



Dale Atkinson, Esq.

dale@atkinsonfirm.com

THE ATKINSON FIRM

LEGAL & CONSULTING SERVICES

Minds Shared

- ICFSEB
- FSBPT
- AAVSB
- ASWB
- ARBO
- FSMTB
- NMTCB
- LEARN
- JRCERT
- NWRP
- JFCSF



That is not really me...

Ground Rules





Ground Rules

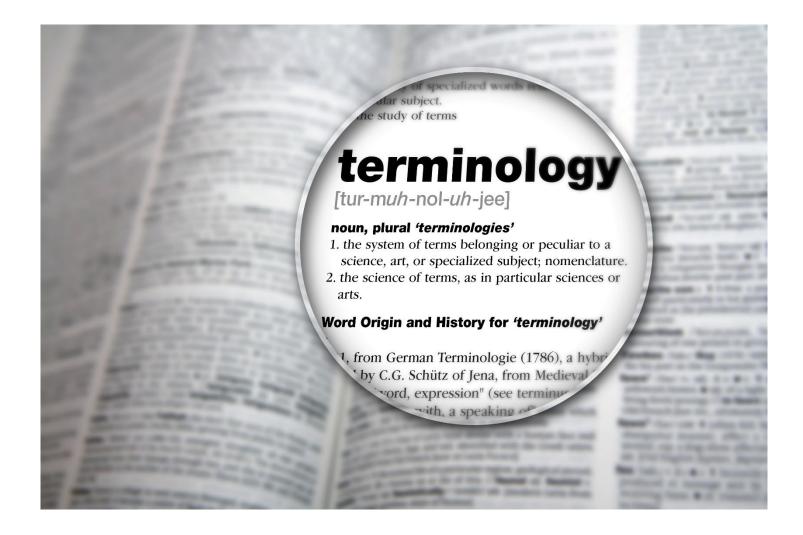


There are no rules here we're trying to
accomplish something.

Thomas A. Edison









License

Certificate

Registration

Permit

Quorum

Abstention

Recusal

Endorsement

Reciprocity

Public member......





What is a funeral director?





What is a funeral director?

Someone duly licensed to practice.

(u) Funeral Director means any person licensed to engage in the business, practice, or profession of Funeral Directing. ICFSEB Model Act



- •What are the following?
- Statute
- Rule/Regulation
- Policy





- Statute...enacted, has force of law
- Rule/Regulation...promulgated, has force of law
- Policy...adopted, NO force of law

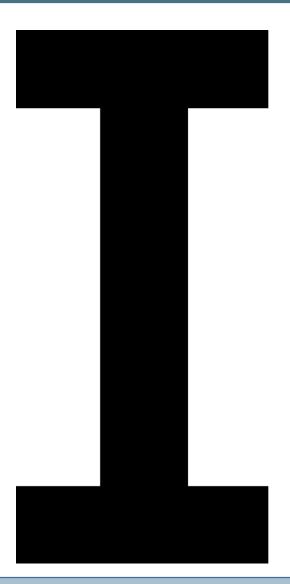












Dear teacher, please don't call on me.





Dear teacher, please don't call on me.



If you want to go fast, GO ALONE.

If you want to go far, GO TOGETHER.

AFRICAN PROVERB



Tell us about your Board....





Tell us about your Board....





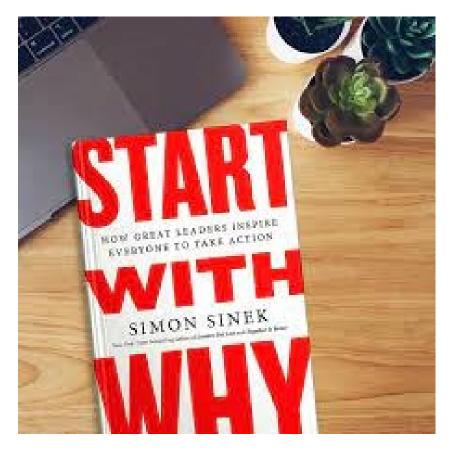


Discuss





Why is government involved in the regulation of the funeral industry?







Why is government involved in regulating the professions?

To protect the public To mandate/require To authorize an administrative body To delegate to experts To Fulfill needs of constituents To set standards and criteria re licensure To instill rights in all involved To Promote uniformity To Authorize enforcement **Outreach to consumers** More.....

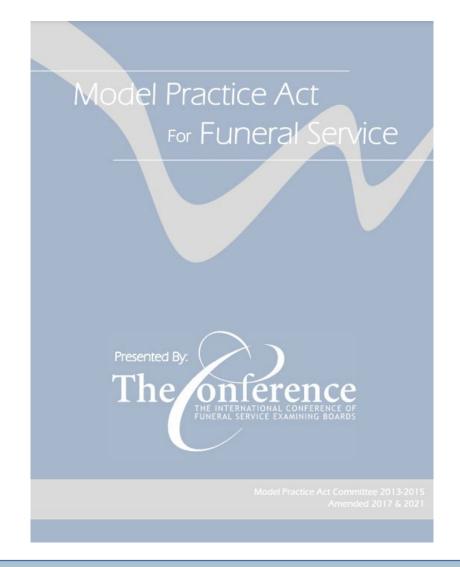


Why is government involved in regulating the professions?

Government is the ultimate equalizer









Conference Model Practice Act For Funeral Service

- Article I Title and Definitions Section 101. Title of Act. This Act shall be known as the "The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards (Conference)
- Model Practice Act for Funeral Service." Section 102. Legislative Declaration. (a) The practice of funeral service in the ______ of ____ is declared a professional practice affecting the public health, safety, and welfare and is subject to regulation and control in the public interest. It is further declared to be a matter of public interest and concern that the practice of funeral service, as defined in this Act, merit and receive the confidence of the public and that only qualified persons be permitted to engage in the practice of funeral service in the _____ of _____. This Act shall be liberally construed to carry out these objectives and purposes.



Conference Model Practice Act For Funeral Service

• (b) It is further declared that the intent of this legislation is to regulate the (Profession) profession and will result in displacing competition by restricting licensure to practice (Profession), as such practice is defined and interpreted by the Board, to Applicants determined by the Board to be qualified under this Act. It is declared that any such restriction on competition is outweighed by the broader interest in protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. It is understood that the regulatory structure calls for Licensees and public members to serve on the Board and this legislation recognizes the need for professional expertise provided by practitioners serving the public interest. This Act is intended to provide active state oversight and supervision through its legislative enactment, the promulgation of enabling regulations, the appointment and removal of Board members by the (Governor), legal representation of the Board by the office of the (State) Attorney General, legislative appropriation of monies to support the Board, periodic legislative sunset review, application to the Board of ethics laws, mandatory Board member training, and judicial review where applicable.



Legislative Declaration

- Idaho Code
- Title 54 Professions, Vocations, and Businesses (Chs. 1 58)
- Chapter 11 Morticians, Funeral Directors and Embalmers (§§ 54-1101 54-1144)
- 54-1101. Public interest and concern in disposition of human bodies.
- The practice and processes involved in processing and making final disposition of human bodies is hereby declared to affect the public interest, health, safety and welfare and to be subject to regulation and control in the public interest. It is further declared to be a matter of public interest and concern that the processes involved in preparing and making final disposition of human bodies should be so controlled as to protect the public interest and merit the confidence of the public, and to that end that only qualified persons be permitted to practice such acts in the state of Idaho. This act shall be liberally construed to carry out these objects and purposes.







Public v. Private Sector





Public v. Private Sector







What is the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards?





What is the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards?

- Private
- Non-profit
- 501(c)(3)
- Membership organization
- Provide programs and services to its member boards
- Lessen burdens of state government
- Increase effectiveness & efficiencies
- Promote uniformity



Roles

Legislative branch **Executive branch** Judicial branch **Board** member **Board staff Investigators Attorneys** Others.....





Delegation of authority

Discuss





Delegation of authority: via statute via rule/regulation via policy



• Is the funeral industry self-regulated?





Requirements for licensure?



Requirements for licensure?





- Requirements for licensure?
 - Education
 - Examination
 - Experience
 - GMC/Criminal background
 - Application
 - Fee



- Requirements for licensure?
- What information do you request on licensure applications?
- Renewal?



Applications for Licensure & Renewal

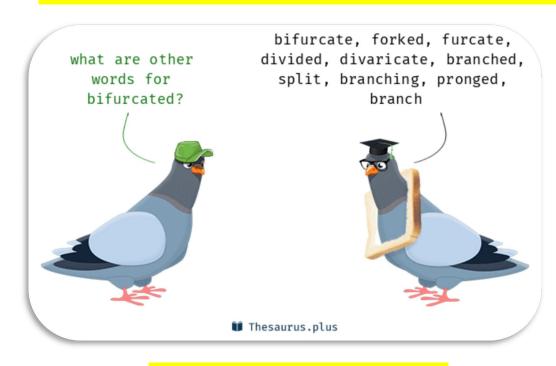
- What is asked?
- How phrased?
- Only ask for what you need to make an informed licensure eligibility decision
- Remember disabilities laws.



Applications

- Demographics
- Education
- Examination
- Experience
- Employment
- Good moral character/criminal history
- Attestation
- Picture

Bifurcated applications



Suggestion!!!



Requirements for licensure?

 Why is there both an education and examination requirement for licensure eligibility?





Differentiate between.....

Discuss

Education & Examination







Good Moral Character

- What is it?
- Who decides?
- Examples?
- Examples that do not involve criminal matters?





Good moral character

- I know it when I see it?
- Criminal history
- Financial
- Professional licensure issues
- Taxes
- Child support
- Alimony

Burden is on the candidate





Government mandates of licensure triggers certain rights.

What does that mean?





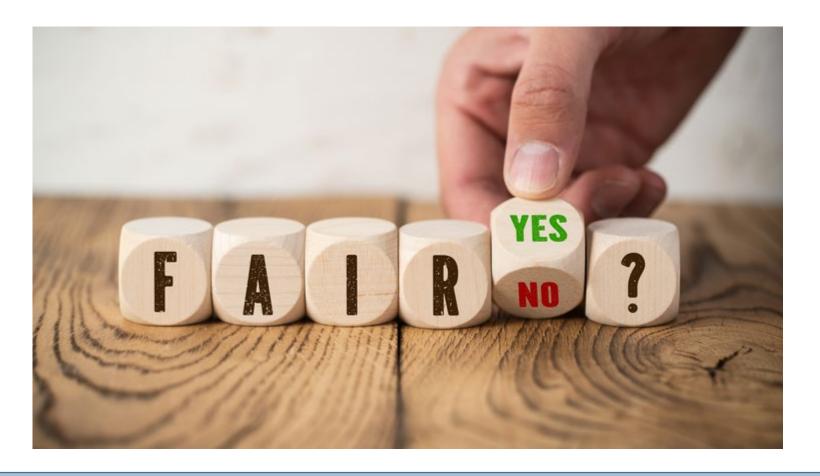
Government Involvement triggers.....?







Due Process/Fundamental Justice





Due Process/Fundamental Justice

- Notice
- Be heard
- Fair and impartial decision making body







BE HEARD







Why is due process/fundamental justice afforded?



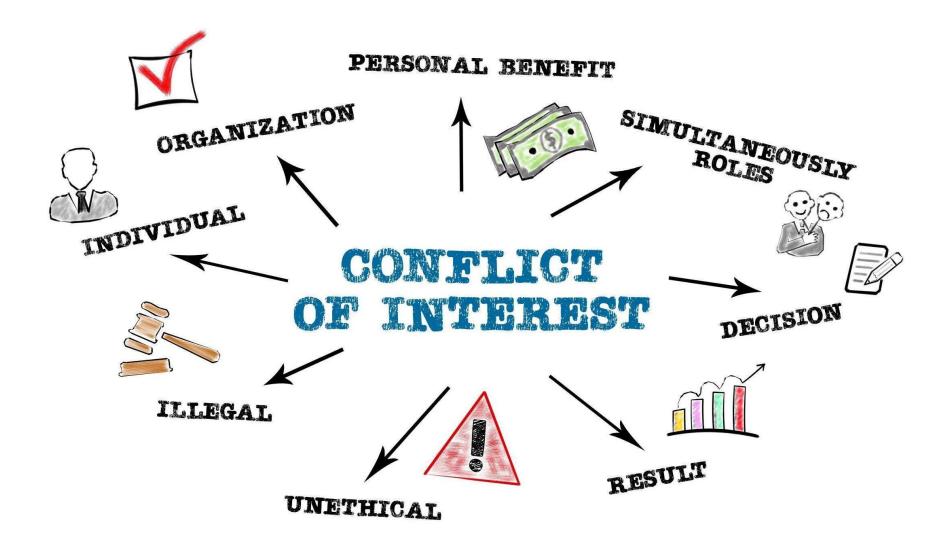
Because we are dealing with government!



Conflict of Interest: What is it? Why is it important?







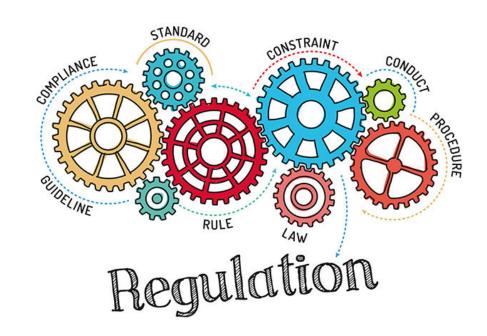


Conflict of Interest

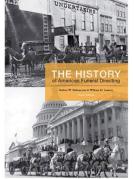




Conflict of Interest: Separate Regulation from Trade











Conflict of Interest











What do Funeral Boards do?





What do Funeral Boards do?

Carry out the intent of the legislation



What do Funeral Boards do?

Regulate

Educate

Communicate

Promulgate regulations

Process applications

Process renewals

Recognize education

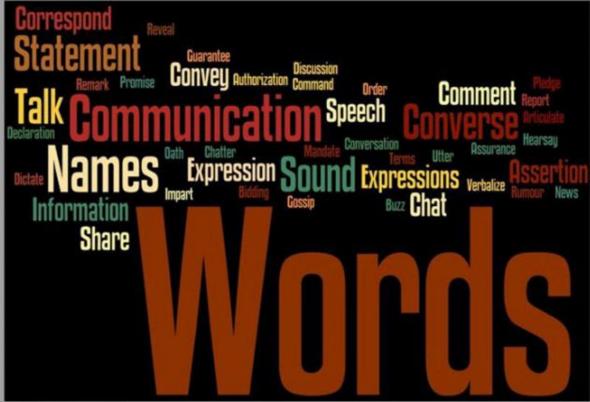
Recognize continuing

Address legislature

- Recognize examination(s)
- Enforce
- Publish
- Social media presence
- Address academia
- Address trade
- Recordkeeping
- Meet
- Employ
- Collect and expend monies
- Budget.....









Terminology

Must Graduation

Shall Examination

May Successful

Definitions Pass

Powers/duties Provide for

Accredited Adopt

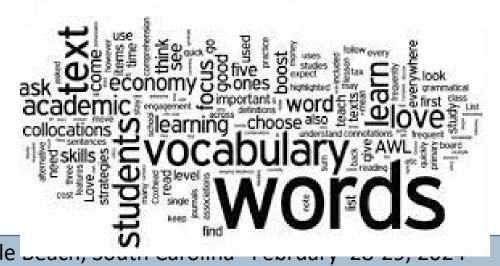
Approved Establish

Maintain

Continued competence

National Accreditation Agency

Licensed





Read your laws!



Importance of language



- Interpretation
- Legislative intent
- Authority
- Ambiguity
- Definitions



Read your laws!

- Shall
- Must
- May



Read your laws!

What other laws apply to your Board?



Board Meetings

- How often do you meet?
- How long is a typical Board meeting?
- In person/virtual
- Recorded? Audio? Video? Live stream?
- Who attends?
- Who is invited?
- Minutes



Minutes

- The Board's window to the world!
- What are in your Board meeting minutes?



Include in every board meeting minutes

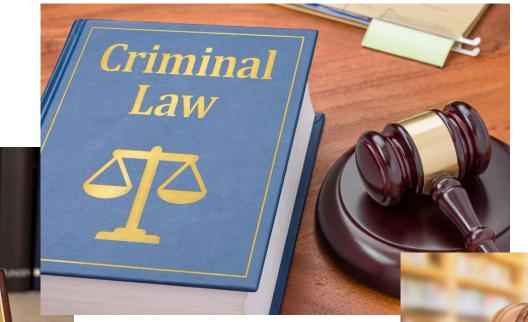
- Composition of board, terms, vacancies
- Mission, vision, strategic plan
- Citation to statutes & rules/regulations
- Relevant reference to policies
- Notation to last meetings minutes
- Annual applications, # granted/# denied, average time from completed app to issuance, # pending
- Annual renewals...same
- Annual complaints, # resolved, average time to resolution, # pending
- # of phone calls
- # of visits to website
- newsletters
- Outreach to....community/academia/legislature/executive branch...



ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Enforcement





Similarities and differences?



Grounds for discipline

•Examples?





Grounds for discipline

 See Conference Model Practice Act Article IV, Section 401



Unlicensed Practice

 Does your board have authority over unlicensed persons who violate he practice act?





Sanction Options?

What are they?





Sanction options



See also, Conference Model Practice Act Article IV, Section 402

- Refuse to issue
- Refuse to renew
- Censure
- Reprimand
- Suspend
- Revoke
- Fine
- Assess costs
- Re-establish competence
- Limited practice
- Supervised practice

•



Post Adverse Action Enforcement

• Options?





Immunity

Act free of intimidation





Immunity

- Two-part test
 - Act within the scope of authority
 - Act in good faith



Public-Private relationships





- What are the following?
 - NBE
 - •SBE
 - LRR





• What does the NBE measure?





- What does the NBE measure?
 - Entry-level competence



Tell us about the NBE development process...













Universal Licensure: Portability & Other Unicorns

February 28, 2024

9:45am – 10:45am

Myrtle Breach, South Carolina

THANK YOU!







Dale Atkinson, Esq.

dale@atkinsonfirm.com

THE ATKINSON FIRM

LEGAL & CONSULTING SERVICES

Minds Shared

- ICFSEB
- FSBPT
- AAVSB
- ASWB
- ARBO
- FSMTB
- NMTCB
- LEARN
- JRCERT
- NWRP
- JFCSF



That is not really me...

TOPIC TERMINOLOGY



- Mobility
- Portability
- Reciprocity
- Endorsement
- Licensure transfer
- Compacts
- Universal Licensure
- Others....

Why are we asking these questions?



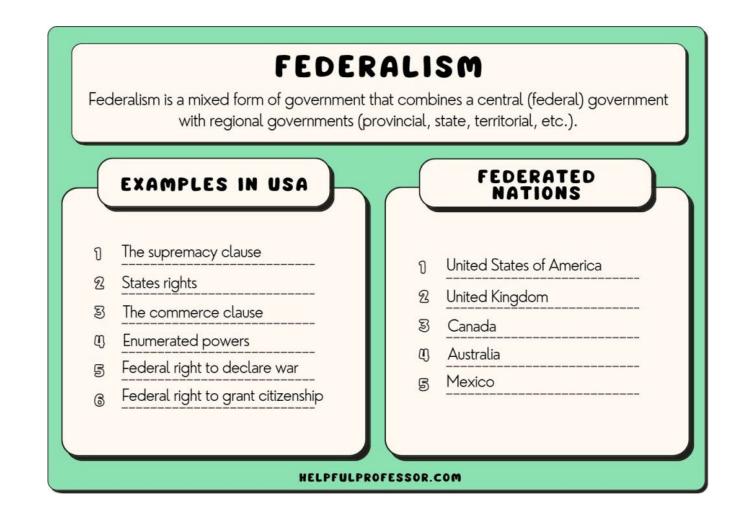
•What is a profession?

- State and Provincial rights to regulate the professions
- Inconsistencies
- Inefficiencies of government regulation
- Barriers to economic growth
- Politics

Respect for States/Provincial Rights



Federalism.....



How do jurisdictions address movement of professionals?



- Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022
- HR 7939
- Signed into law January 5, 2023
- Effective immediately



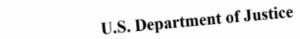
- Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022
- (a) In General.--In any case in which a servicemember or the spouse of a servicemember has a covered license and such servicemember or spouse relocates his or her residency because of military orders for military service to a location that is not in the jurisdiction of the licensing authority that issued the covered license, such covered license shall be considered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied for in the jurisdiction of such new residency for the duration of such military orders if such servicemember or spouse-

_

Federalism



Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022



Civil Rights Division

Washington, D.C. 20530 Office of the Assistant Attorney General

NOTIFICATION LETTER

State Licensing Authorities

Professional License Portability for Servicemembers and Their Spouses ATTENTION: DATE:

SUBJECT:

Universal Licensure



- What is it?
- How does it differ from an endorsement statute?





- Signed into law April 10, 2019
- Touted as the first state to pass a law that allows people who have an out of state occupational and professional license to become licensed in the state more quickly....
- Applies to 65 occupations and professions
- Does not apply to teachers and lawyers



• Issue a license to a person who establishes residence in Arizona if....

• 1) 1. The person is currently licensed or certified in at least one other state in the discipline applied for and at the same practice level as determined by the regulating entity and the license or certification is in good standing in all states in which the person holds a license or certification.



• Issue a license to a person who establishes residence in Arizona if....

• 2. The person has been licensed or certified by another state for at least one year.



• Issue a license to a person who establishes residence in Arizona if....

• 3. When the person was licensed or certified by another state there were minimum education requirements and, if applicable, work experience and clinical supervision requirements in effect and the other state verifies that the person met those requirements in order to be licensed or certified in that state.



• Issue a license to a person who establishes residence in Arizona if....

• 4. The person previously passed an examination required for the license or certification IF REQUIRED BY THE OTHER STATE.



• Issue a license to a person who establishes residence in Arizona if....

• 5. The person has not had a license or certificate revoked and has not voluntarily surrendered a license or certificate in any other state or country while under investigation for unprofessional conduct.



• Issue a license to a person who establishes residence in Arizona if....

• 6. The person has not had discipline imposed by any other regulating entity. If another jurisdiction has taken disciplinary action against the person, the regulating entity shall determine if the cause for the action was corrected and the matter resolved. If the matter has not been resolved by that jurisdiction, the regulating entity may not issue or deny a license until the matter is resolved.



• Issue a license to a person who establishes residence in Arizona if....

• 7. The person does not have a complaint, allegation or investigation pending before another regulating entity in another state or country that relates to unprofessional conduct. If an applicant has any complaints, allegations or investigations pending, the regulating entity in this state shall suspend the application process and may not issue or deny a license to the applicant until the complaint, allegation or investigation is resolved.

Arizona H.B. 2569



• Issue a license to a person who establishes residence in Arizona if....

• 8. The person pays all applicable fees.

• 9. THE PERSON DOES NOT HAVE A DISQUALIFYING CRIMINAL HISTORY AS DETERMINED BY THE REGULATING ENTITY PURSUANT TO SECTION 41-1093.04.

Arizona H.B. 2569



- Issue a license to a person who establishes residence in Arizona if....
- B. This section does not prevent a regulating entity under this title from entering into a reciprocity agreement with another state or jurisdiction for persons married to active duty members of the armed forces of the United States, except that the agreement may not allow out-of-state licensees or certificate holders to obtain a license or certificate by reciprocity in this state if the applicant has not met standards that are substantially equivalent to or greater than the standards required in this state as determined by the regulating entity on a case-by-case basis.

Arizona H.B. 2569



• Issue a license to a person who establishes residence in Arizona if....

• C. A REGULATING ENTITY THAT ADMINISTERS AN EXAMINATION ON LAWS OF THIS STATE AS PART OF ITS LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE APPLICATION REQUIREMENT MAY REQUIRE AN APPLICANT TO TAKE AND PASS AN EXAMINATION ON THE LAWS OF THIS STATE.

Now, let's revisit the topic....



- Universal licensure.....a myth
- Endorsement statutes
- Fast track endorsement
- Profile systems
- Compacts.....













Top Recent Regulatory Cases

February 29, 2024

10:45am – 11:45am

Myrtle Breach, South Carolina







Dale Atkinson, Esq.

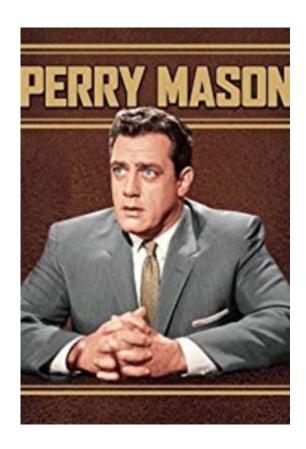
dale@atkinsonfirm.com

THE ATKINSON FIRM

LEGAL & CONSULTING SERVICES

Minds Shared

- ICFSEB
- FSBPT
- AAVSB
- ASWB
- ARBO
- FSMTB
- NMTCB
- LEARN
- JRCERT
- NWRP
- JFCSF



That is not really me...



- Delegation
- Psychometric validation
- Limits on attempts
 - Statute
 - Rule/regulation
- Legal challenges



- Navarro-Colon v. Rodriquez-Mulet, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16159
- Puerto Rico, bar exam
- 6 attempt limit established by rule via Supreme Court of Puerto Rico,
 1986
- Candidate graduate of accredited law school-2001
- 6 unsuccessful attempts, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
- Legal challenge....



- Navarro-Colon v. Rodriquez-Mulet, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16159
- Legal challenge....

- Causes of action?
 - Due process
 - Equal protection/14th Amendment
 - Discrimination
 - Arbitrary and capricious
- Defenses?
 - Statute of limitations



• Navarro-Colon v. Rodriquez-Mulet, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16159

• Court ruling: Section 1983 action, substantive due process, and equal protection subject to dismissal as time barred.



• Navarro-Colon v. Rodriquez-Mulet, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16159

NOTE: Court questioned the lack of information/transparency related to the bar examination development and establishment of passing standard.

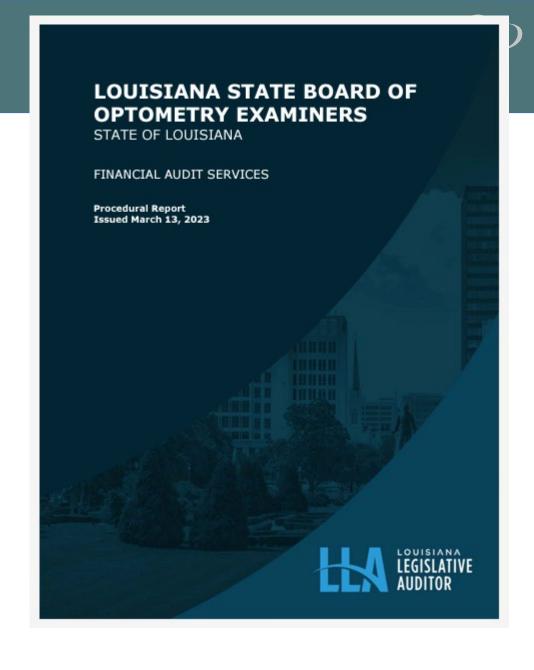
"It is inconceivable to [Sireci] that a body in charge of regulating the legal profession in Puerto Rico is unable to explain how the passing score on the exam was set," or to produce formal documentation regarding this matter. Sireci also avers that "the method for setting the passing score on the PR Bar exam was used as an example of a flawed and arbitrary procedure 20 years ago in a national law publication, and to date the Board has done nothing to adjust or validate the passing standard."



• Navarro-Colon v. Rodriquez-Mulet, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16159

14 The extent to which performance on the Puerto Rico bar examination is even an accurate predictor of how one will perform as a practicing lawyer is unclear to the Court. The undersigned knows plenty of competent and successful attorneys who have failed the Puerto Rico bar examination. By the same token, the undersigned is also aware of licensed attorneys who passed the Puerto Rico bar examination on the first try, and are deficient in analyzing legal issues and in providing competent representation to their clients. It appears to the Court that the only thing the Puerto Rico bar exam measures is how well one takes the Puerto Rico Bar exam. The legal profession deserves better.

Co-mingling of roles and functions





EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH Filed Mar 06, 2023 8:25 AM Deputy Clerk of Court E-File Received Mar 03, 2023 2:15 PM

C-729434 25

19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

STATE OF LOUISIANA

NO.	DIVISION " '
	

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS

VERSUS

OPTOMETRY ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA, JAMES D. SANDEFUR, O.D. and HOPE L. CARRIER

FILED:	
	DEPUTY CLERK

PETITION FOR DAMAGES



SERVICE COPY



D10906436

CITATION

OPTOMETRY ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA, A LOUISIANA NON-PROFIT

DOMESTIC CORPORATION

(Plaintiff)

VS

DAVID R. HEITMEIER, O.D, ET AL (Defendant)

TO: DAVID R. HEITMEIER, O.D

3501 HOLIDAY DRIVE

SUITE 201

NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114

GREETINGS:

NUMBER C-729018 "31"

19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

STATE OF LOUISIANA



PRESS RELEASE

Justice Department and FTC Obtain Settlement to Stop Deceptive Marketing Practices Involving the Sale of Funeral Goods and Services

Friday, April 7, 2023



For Immediate Release

Office of Public Affairs

The Justice Department, together with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), today announced that the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida entered an order that requires Legacy Cremation Services, LLC, Funeral & Cremation Group of North America, LLC, and Anthony Joseph Damiano to pay \$275,000 in civil penalties and to be subject to injunctive relief requiring them to comply with the FTC Act and the FTC's Trade Regulation Rule Concerning Funeral Industry Practices (Funeral Rule). The FTC Act prohibits unfair and deceptive conduct and false advertising. The Funeral Rule prohibits providing consumers with inaccurate price information and requires certain disclosures to consumers regarding pricing for funeral-related goods.



LOCAL

Florida revokes controversial Orlando funeral home's license



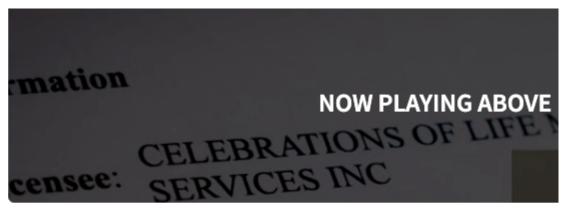






By Nick Papantonis, WFTV.com

December 07, 2023 at 11:41 pm EST



Video: Finding multiple laws broken, Florida revokes controversial Orlando funeral home's license (WFTV)

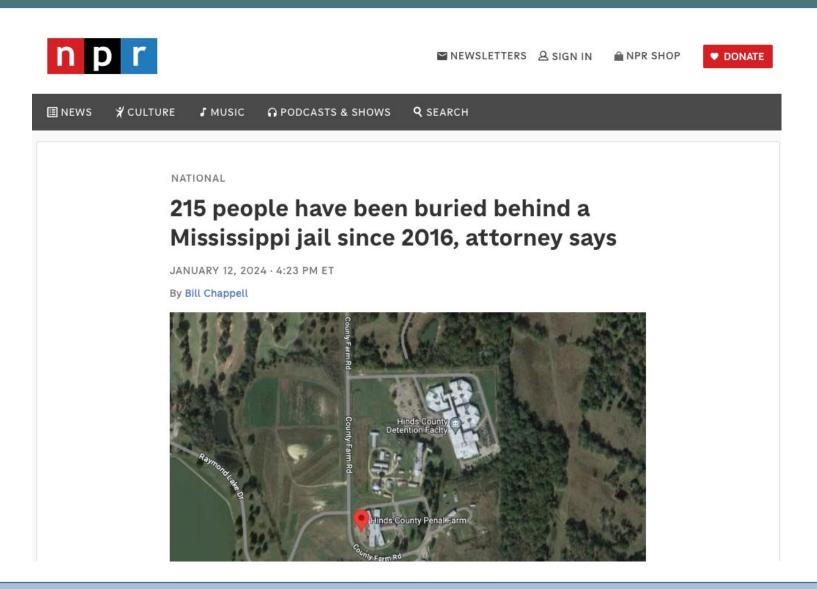
ORLANDO, Fla. — The Florida Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services has voted to revoke the license of a controversial Orlando funeral home under fire from families and fellow businesses, finding multiple legal violations after a year-long investigation.

WATCH CHANNEL 9 EYEWITNESS NEWS

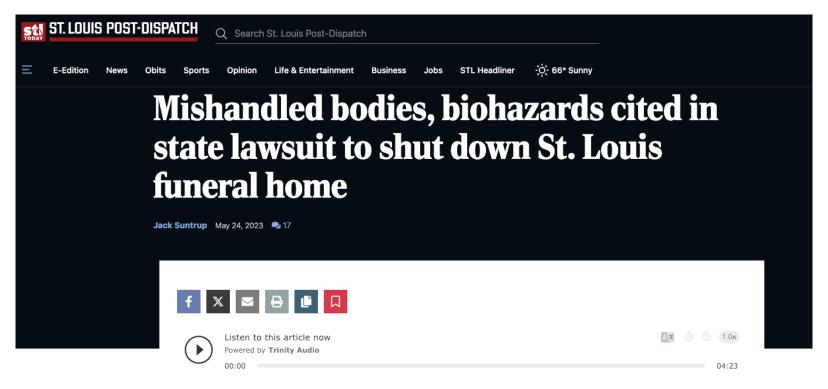
Celebrations of Life Mortuary and Cremation Services, located on Clarcona-Ocoee Road, allowed its owner, Tekeavias Byrd, to act as a funeral director and deal directly with families, despite Byrd lacking the appropriate license.

Investigators also found the business failed to properly cremate a body.









J EFFERSON CITY — A state board wants to shut down a north St. Louis funeral home after an inspector reported finding mishandled bodies, hazardous conditions and a lack of records earlier this year.

The State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors on Monday filed a lawsuit in Cole County Circuit Court against Serenity Memorial Funeral and Cremation Service LLC, 1905 Union Boulevard.





Saginaw County family suing funeral home over missing memorial money

By: Terry Camp Feb 20, 2023 Updated Feb 21, 2023 🔍 0





Colorado lawmakers to tackle licensure, oversight after bodies uncovered at 'green' funeral home in Penrose

Legislation could include licensure for funeral home practitioners and routine inspections

Marianne Goodland marianne.goodland@coloradopolitics.com Oct 19, 2023 Updated Feb 20, 2024 💂 0



Deliveries of the remains of the 115 decomposing bodies discovered at the Return to Nature Funeral Home in Penrose, Colorado, have started arriving at the El Paso County Coroner's Office in Colorado Springs, Colorado on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023. Authorities talk inside the enclosure after one of the drop-offs. Temporary structures and refrigerated trucks filled a parking lot next to the office where they will be beginning the massive task of trying to identify the remains. (Photo by Jerilee Bennett, The Gazette)

JERILEE BENNETT, THE GAZETTE





VIDE

LIVE

SHOV

ELECTION 2024

538

Q

Nearly 200 decomposing bodies removed from funeral home

The DNA testing to identify the bodies could take months.

By Jon Haworth

October 18, 2023, 2:39 AM

n x ≥ 0



115 bodies found improperly stored at funeral home

The bodies are in such bad shape that they will need to be identified through DNA, the Fremont County... Show More

At least 189 decomposing bodies have been removed from a Colorado funeral home, much higher than initial reports suggested when the story surfaced earlier this month, according to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

The Return to Nature Funeral Home based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, offers environmentally friendly burials but came under investigation after more than 115 human remains were found being improperly stored on the property, according to a statement from the Fremont County Sheriff's Office from earlier this month.



THE DENVER POST

Politics | Colorado should finally license funeral home...



Colorado should finally license funeral home workers, state regulators recommend

State has long boasted the laxest mortuary regulations in the nation



A hearse and debris can be seen at the rear of the Return to Nature Funeral Home in Penrose, Colo., Oct. 6, 2023. A family filed a lawsuit Monday, Oct. 30, against the Colorado funeral home where 190 decaying bodies were found alleging that the owners, a husband and wife, allowed the remains of their loved ones and to rot away while they sent families fake ashes. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)



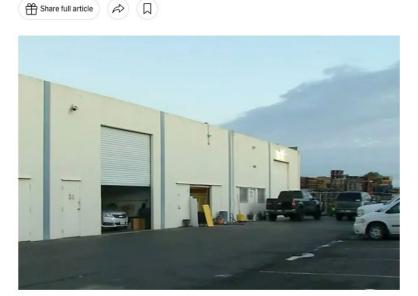
By **SAM TABACHNIK** | stabachnik@denverpost.com | The Denver Post PUBLISHED: January 3, 2024 at 6:00 a.m. | UPDATED: January 3, 2024 at 3:31 p.m.



The New Hork Times

6 Bodies and Remains of 154 People Found in Suspended Crematorium's Warehouse

Authorities recovered the remains this month in Hayward, Calif., after customers said Oceanview Cremations stopped responding to their calls. Oceanview's license was suspended in 2018.



The company Oceanview Cremations had a corporate license that was suspended in 2018, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office said. ABC7

In the Matter of Mills Funeral Home and Craig Mills



- April 12, 2023, hearing, April 30, 2023, Board Order
 - Note, recusals
 - Previous consent orders (Feb 2021 & Oct 2021) violated
 - Respondent Morgan, probation for 3 years, \$1500 civil penalty
 - Respondent Mills, 30 day suspension, \$5000 civil penalty, additional sanctions
 - Establishment permit suspended for 3 years
- May 10, 2023, hearing, May 15, 2023, Board Order
 - Note, recusals
 - Funeral Service license Mills revoked
 - Establishment permit of Mills Funeral Home revoked
 - Collection of previous civil penalties





