

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
CASE NO. M23-0060

In the matter of:

Bruce D. Martin, Jr. and Long House Funeral
Home Incorporated,
Respondents.

)
) **ORDER UPHOLDING IN PART**
) **AND LIFTING IN PART AN**
) **ORDER FOR SUMMARY**
) **SUSPENSION**

THIS CAUSE came on to be heard before the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service (the “Board”) to consider an Order for Summary Suspension issued on December 18, 2023 to summarily suspend Funeral Establishment License No. 0752 of Long House Funeral Home Incorporated; Preneed Funeral Establishment License No. 0974 of Long House Funeral Home Incorporated; Funeral Service License No. 2771 of Bruce D. Martin, Jr.

WHEREAS, On or about November 13, 2023, Bruce D. Martin, Jr. was indicted in Jackson County Superior Court for two felony counts of statutory sexual offense with a child by an adult, and four felony counts of indecent liberties with a child.

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2023, the Board issued an Order for Summary Suspension, finding that emergency action was warranted by the Board to protect the public health, safety, and welfare;

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2023, Respondents were served with the Order for Summary Suspension;

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2024, the Board conducted a hearing in which Board staff and Respondents were provided with an opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and arguments with regard to whether the summary suspension should remain in place until the criminal charges set forth above have been adjudicated.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board, having reviewed the pleadings; considered the testimony and evidence presented by all parties; and considered arguments of counsel, finds, and concludes as follows:

1. Bruce D. Martin, Jr. (“Respondent Individual”) is licensed as Funeral Service Licensee No. 2771 by the Board and, therefore, is subject to Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 34 of the North Carolina Administrative Code and the standards set forth in Funeral Industry Practices, 16 C.F.R. § 453 (1984).
2. Long House Funeral Home Incorporated (“Respondent Establishment” and collectively with Respondent Individual, “Respondents”) is licensed as Funeral Establishment No. 0752 and Preneed Establishment No. 0974 by the Board and, therefore, is subject to Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 34 of the North

Carolina Administrative Code and the standards set forth in Funeral Industry Practices, 16 C.F.R. § 453 (1984).

3. For all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent Individual has served as the licensed manager and majority owner of Respondent Establishment. Respondent Individual holds a preneed sales license on behalf of Respondent Establishment.
4. Respondent Individual currently is the only licensee employed by Respondent Establishment and is the only licensed corporate officer and owner of Respondent Establishment.
5. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-210.25(d)(2)(a), Respondent Establishment is required to employ a manager who holds either a funeral director license or a funeral service license issued by the Board and who is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the funeral establishment.
6. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-210.27A(e), either the president, vice-president, or the chairman of the board of directors of Respondent Establishment must be licensed by the Board as a funeral director or a funeral service licensee.
7. On or about November 13, 2023, Respondent Individual was indicted by a grand jury in Jackson County Superior Court on two felony counts of statutory sexual offense with a child by an adult, and four felony counts of indecent liberties with a child.
8. Following his indictment, Respondent Individual was incarcerated from November 14 until December 13, 2023. He currently is released from custody on bail in the total amount of \$700,000.00.
9. Respondent Individual's next court appearance for the criminal charges set forth in Paragraph 7 of this Order is March 18, 2024.
10. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-210.25B(a), "[t]he board shall not issue or renew a license, permit, or registration to any person or entity who has been convicted of a sexual offense against a minor."
11. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-210.25(e)(1)(g), the Board has the authority to suspend or revoke a license, or refuse to issue or renew a license, upon finding that a person has become unfit to practice and engages in acts or omissions of gross immorality.
12. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-210.25(e)(1)(a), the Board has the authority to suspend or revoke a license, or refuse to issue or renew a license, upon finding that a person has become unfit to practice and is convicted of a felony.

13. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-210.25(d)(4), the Board may place on probation, refuse to issue or renew, suspend, or revoke a funeral establishment permit when an owner, partner, manager, member, operator, or officer of the funeral establishment violates any provision of Article 13, Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes or any regulations of the Board, or when any agent or employee of the funeral establishment, with the consent of any person, firm or corporation operating the funeral establishment, violates any of those provisions, rules or regulations.
14. Respondent Individual's indictment by a grand jury of multiple felonies involving sexual offenses against a minor is indicative of a significant risk to consumer health, safety, and welfare if the Respondents continue the practice funeral service in advance of a full adjudication of the criminal charges set forth in Paragraph 7 of this Order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

- I. The suspension of Funeral Service License No. 2771 held by Bruce D. Martin, Jr. shall be continued until a full adjudication of the criminal charges set forth in Paragraph 7 of this Order has been made.
- II. The summary suspension of Funeral Establishment Permit No. 0752 and Preneed Establishment Permit No. 0974 held by Long House Funeral Home Incorporated shall be lifted upon Respondents' compliance with the following terms and conditions within thirty (30) days following the effective date of this Order:
 - a. Respondent Establishment submit in writing to the Board the identity of a licensed manager for Respondent Establishment other than Bruce D. Martin, Jr.; and
 - b. Respondent Establishment adhere to the compliance advice of Board staff to ensure that it meets the requirements of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-210.27A(e), identifying a licensed officer of Respondent Establishment other than Bruce D. Martin, Jr.

By order of the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service, this, the 29th day of January, 2024.

By: 
Thomas T. Hilderbrand
President