

North Carolina Board of Funeral Service

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The next meeting of the Board will be 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the Board offices, 1033 Wade Avenue, Ste. 108, Raleigh, NC 27605. Hearings are scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2010 also at the Board offices. The agenda for the meeting can be viewed by [following this link](#).

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BOARD ACTIONS- Actions and Results from the March 10 Board meeting:

- A. Approved recommendation from the preneed committee to send letters to bond companies or insurance agents explaining the limits of liability for preneed surety bonds.
- B. Approved the meeting calendar for 2010
- C. Adopted recommendation of finance and personnel committee to replace funds used for litigation expenses in the litigation reserve fund.
- D. Received report from Clinics committee about the clinic planned for October 2010 in Greensboro. Mr. Vernie Fountain will be the speaker for the embalming section. Not all speakers for the funeral directors section have been confirmed, however, representatives from Ft. Bragg Casualty Affairs office are confirmed to present a program on funeral benefits, procedures and administrative services for deaths of active military personnel. (Additional information will be published in future email newsletters, in regular newsletters and on the current events page)

DEATH CERTIFICATES

The Board has worked for some time to assist licensees with the challenges of obtaining physician's signatures on death certificates or obtaining them in a timely manner. These efforts included meetings with officials from State Vital Records and the NC Medical Board to develop cooperative ways to address the matter. Two recent developments may further assist in the efforts. NC Vital Records is now seeking proposals for systems to handle electronic death registration. The NC Medical Board is considering legislation that would allow physicians assistants operating under a supervisory arrangement with the physician or nurse practitioners practicing under a collaborative practice agreement with the physician to those who can sign death certificates.

FRAUD ALERT

The Board received recent reports of a male person soliciting a family to move a body from the funeral home originally selected by the family to another funeral home. This individual claimed to be and used the name of a validly licensed North Carolina funeral director. He made contact with one or more funeral homes and transport removal services requesting they move the deceased. One company tried to confirm the request with funeral homes allegedly engaged to receive the body, however those firms denied they were involved. One funeral director was contacted

by the person and refused to take custody of the body. The incident involved funeral homes serving African American communities in Central and Eastern North Carolina.

Board staff interviewed officials with several funeral homes during the investigation and was informed this person may be Mario E. Kilpatrick. Kilpatrick is not a licensee of the Board. Several licensees informed the Board that Kilpatrick obtained the use of a limousine from a funeral home in 2009 under false pretenses by using the letterhead of another funeral home. He was apparently arrested and it appears the matter is pending in Nash County.

If firms are contacted to transfer a body or borrow vehicles, the Board encourages you to confirm such requests directly with the other funeral home either in person or by telephone contact to that firm's published number.

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

The Board has filed for three proposed new rules designated as 21 NCAC 34A .0203; 21 NCAC 34B, 0311; and 21NCAC 34D .0203. The filing included proposal to repeal all MBA rules permanently except 04 NCAC 04 .0301 which will be repealed and moved under 21 NCAC 34. A copy of that filing can be viewed at this link: [proposed rules](#) .These proposed actions were published in the April 1 edition of the *North Carolina Register*. The publication of the proposed rulemaking begins a 60-day period in which written comments may be submitted. The period of written comment will end June 1. Comments may be sent to Paul Harris, Executive Director by email wpharris@ncbfs.org, by fax at 919-733-8271, or by mail to NCBFS, 1033 Wade Avenue, Suite 108, Raleigh, NC 27605.

A public hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. Wednesday May 19 to coincide with the Board meeting.

OUR SYMPATHIES EXTEND TO THE FAMILIES OF:

- Mr. Harold Thurman Seagroves, Sr., of Hall Wynne Funeral Home, Griffin Chapel, Pittsboro who died March 23.
- Loretta Janicki "Jan" Harrell, of Harrell's Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Burgaw, who died March 24.