

North Carolina Board of Funeral Service Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 9

September 2018

Governor Cooper Declares State of Emergency for NC, Hurricane Florence Impacts Funeral Homes

September has been a challenging month for our state in coping with the devastation caused by Hurricane Florence, and funeral homes are no exception. As the storm made landfall in New Hanover county and then moved slowly southwest into South Carolina, it left behind sustained power outages, flooding, road closures, interruptions in mail service and communications networks.

These are some of the factors that funeral homes had to face in affected areas which required hurriedly identifying alternate resources for refrigeration, embalming, and other primary areas of funeral service. In many cases, families had to delay planned funeral services as well as committal services. These conditions in some areas may certainly have created delays in securing certified death certificates.

The NC Board of Funeral Service recently discussed the implications for funeral homes whenever natural and catastrophic disasters occur. The Board has directed staff to study this issue and develop protocols for offering a central source of communications and a clearinghouse for available resources for funeral homes to access particularly in those situations where a state of emergency exists.

Executive Director Stephen Davis apprised the Board of attempts to communicate information to funeral homes but acknowledged the challenges in getting that information out when faced with interrupted communications and power outages. *"In coming weeks, Board staff will reach out to the Funeral Directors and Morticians Association of NC and the NC Funeral Directors Association to discuss this critical issue and to work collaboratively to identify disaster response protocols that are unique to funeral service,"* Davis said. For example, when the Governor declares a state of emergency, funeral establishments may request a temporary waiver of permit requirements during the emergency.

Board staff will also survey other states' procedures and practices for disaster response to identify best practices and application to North Carolina.



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In Loving Memory

The NC Board of Funeral Services offers the family of Mr. Edward Darrell Herndon its condolences in remembering his life and contributions to his community and state. Mr. Herndon is the father of Mr. Steve Herndon, NCBFS Board Member and Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee.

Edward Darrell Herndon of Bostic, died Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at his home. Mr. Herndon attended Gardner-Webb College and was a graduate of Clemson University with a BS degree in Civil Engineering. For many years until his retirement in 1999, he worked for the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, serving as Regional Engineer in Public Water Supply. Upon his retirement, he was awarded The Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., and in 1995, he received the J. M. Jarrett Award for significant contributions to environmental improvement. He was inducted into the Gardner-Webb University Gallery of Distinguished Alumni in 2015. The Clemson University Alumni Association conferred the designation of Golden Tiger to Mr. Herndon in 2011. Mr. Herndon served his community as a member of Rutherford County Rescue for fifty years and served as Chief for thirty-eight of those years. He was a member of the NC Association of Rescue and EMS having served as an Area Director for many years and as a board member of Western North Carolina Development. He was a member and Deacon of First Baptist Church, Forest City, and was a US Navy veteran serving during the Korean Conflict. Darrell shared a love for his community and doing for others before himself. He deeply loved his wife, and sons, and his grandchildren held a special place in his heart. Survivors include his wife, Reita Waters Herndon of the home; sons, David Herndon and wife Sheila of Lake Lure, NC and Steve Herndon and wife Jessica of Bostic, NC; and his grandchildren, Tanner, Brandt, Emma and Ella, and several nieces and nephews. The Board staff extends their sympathy to Steve and his family.



Reminder!! License Renewals Due By December 31st 5 Hours of CE Credit Required

The Board reminds licensees that the renewal season is drawing close and encourages early renewals when possible. Renewals are due on or before December 31, 2018. Application forms will be available soon on the Board's website at www.ncbfs.org.

Licensees can submit their applications electronically, by FAX, or by US Mail. Please remember that you must complete five [5] hours of approved Continuing Education courses as a prerequisite for annual individual license renewal on or before February 1, 2019.

If you have not yet completed the required number of Continuing Education Credits, you have an opportunity in October to attend four Board-sponsored, information-packed courses focusing on Preneed, HB 529, and the FTC Funeral Rule.

Board staff are available to answer questions or provide information regarding the requirements for renewal by contacting Amy Mauldin, Assistant Director, or Stephen Davis, Executive Director, at (919) 733-9380.

CE Courses Offered at Brown-Wynne Funeral Home in Raleigh, NC

The NC Board of Funeral Service is sponsoring a number of continuing education courses which are available to licensees seeking to complete the mandatory five [5] hours required for licensure renewal. The Board expresses appreciation to Brown-Wynne Funeral Home at 300 St. Mary's Street in Raleigh, NC, for their offer of space for three [3] CE courses in October.

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Preneed Review	3 CE Credits
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	HB 529 Summary	2 CE Credits

Thursday, October 25, 2018

9:00 am – 11:00 am	FTC "Funeral Rule" Review	2 CE Credits
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These courses will be presented at Brown-Wynne Funeral Home, 300 St. Mary's Street, Raleigh, NC 27605. Parking is available at the corner of St. Mary's and North Streets. Please visit the Board's website at www.ncbfs.org by clicking on **Continuing Education** for more detailed information and a location map.

The non-refundable Registration Fee is \$25.00 per person per course. Please pay by money order or personal check with advance registration or at the door.

Space for each course is limited to 50 attendees.

*To register, please contact Ms. Marty Mills, Senior Program Assistant,
at [919] 733-9380, or by e-mail at mmills@ncbfs.org.*

The Board is offering an additional Preneed Review course in Wilmington, NC. Terri Robinson-McLean, Compliance Inspector for the Southeastern Region, will present this course. Details are as follows:

Monday, October 15, 2018

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Preneed Review	3 CE Credits
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Wilmington Funeral & Cremation
1535 S. 41st Street
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403

Contact: Terri Robinson-McLean at tmclean@ncbfs.org.

The non-refundable fee is \$25.00. Seating is limited to 60 attendees. Please register in advance. Payment is accepted at the door by personal check or money order only.

Please check the NCBFS website at www.ncbfs.org for additional CE course listings.

New Policy for Requesting Copies of Preneed Contracts Now In Effect

Board staff have developed revisions to an existing policy governing the release of copies of preneed contracts and related documents which is now in effect.

The new policy addresses requests from licensees, consumers, beneficiaries and other authorized parties for copies of preneed contracts and statements of funeral goods and services on file with the Board.

The policy is necessary to assure compliance with NC General Statute 90-210.73 which states that *“the names and addresses of the purchasers and beneficiaries of preneed funeral contracts filed with the Board shall not be subject to Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.”* Chapter 132 is the statutory provision that defines and sets forth conditions for the release of public records.

The new policy clarifies the requirements for releasing the referenced preneed documents and states how Board staff will respond to any oral or written requests to provide copies of preneed contract information.

Preneed contracts and/or preneed statements of funeral goods and services selected may only be released to the following:

- The original contract funeral establishment;

- The preneed contract purchaser and/or beneficiary; or,
- A successor funeral establishment upon having met certain criteria.

Any request to receive preneed contract and/or a preneed statement of funeral goods and services selected must be in writing.

When the Board receives a request to provide the documentation to a successor firm, the preneed contract purchaser and/or beneficiary, or the individual(s) legally entitled to make such a transfer, that request must convey specific consent to allow the release of the requested documents to a named successor firm.

Upon receipt of a written request via e-mail or US Mail, Board staff will respond within two (2) business days or sooner if possible. In cases of immediate need for preneed documents when a death has occurred, Board staff will make every reasonable effort to provide the requested copies at the time of the request.

A copy of the full policy will be available on the Board website at www.ncbfs.org. We have made available an on-line fillable form under **Applications & Forms/Preneed/Consumer Request** for requesting copies of preneed contracts and related documents.

Board Meetings

The September Board meeting scheduled for September 10 and 11 was postponed in anticipation of the imminent arrival of Hurricane Florence. Instead, it was held by teleconference on Friday, September 28, 2018.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held October 10 and 11, 2018 at the Board's office in Raleigh.

The North Carolina Board of Funeral Service is pleased to announce a new class of resident trainees who began their apprenticeships starting September 2, 2018.

Welcome!!

Kristen R. Bell	LaFayette Funeral Home
Aaron L. Causby	Jenkins Funeral Home
Sabrina N. Cox	Cromartie-Miller Funerals and Cremations
Teresa R. Jefferies	Townson-Rose Funeral Home
Eddi K. Lee-Barger	Salem Funerals and Cremations
Leslie M. Long	Guil-Rand Funeral and Cremation Service
Zachary D. McGee	Moody Funeral Service
Marcus D. Miller	Roberts Funeral Service
James L. Nichols, II	Wright Funeral and Cremations
Ashley D. Peacock	Davie Funeral Service
Melvin L. Singletary	Hooper Funeral Home
Christian L. Soles	Worthington Funeral Home
Stella R. Tucker	Rogers & Breece Funeral Home
Thomas D. Whisnant, III	Cleveland Funeral Services and Crematory
Tarra L. Woodard	Woodard Funeral Home

The Board has approved permits for the following funeral establishments:

Mountain View Cremation & Funeral Care	Arden, NC
Rachels Family Funeral Home, Inc. [ownership change]	Fuquay-Varina, NC
Guil-Rand Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc.	Archdale, NC
Baskerville Funeral Home, LLC	Henderson, NC

The Board has approved the following individuals for Funeral Service:

Atravis S. Powell	Fayetteville, NC
Austin K. O'Neal	Copperhill, TN
B. Somer Addison	Youngsville, NC
Chelsea M. Stygles	Burgaw, NC
Kelsey N. Ahlgrim	Charlotte, NC
Troy L. Taylor	Murphy, NC

The Board has approved the following individuals for Funeral Director licensure:

Alaina N. Pryor	Mint Hill, NC
Charles M. Gaddy	Old Fort, NC
Dandrell D. Williams	Goldsboro, NC

The Board has approved Transporter permits for the following individuals:

Donald R. Gray, Jr.	Paul O. Crews, Jr.	Stephen W. Rector
James F. Blount, III	Terry J. Robinson	