

**BEFORE THE  
MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF  
EMBALMERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

In the Matter of the Application of:

CHRISTOPHER SHANE SMITH

**ORDER ISSUING A PROBATED FUNERAL DIRECTOR LICENSE**

The Missouri State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (the “Board”) pursuant to Section 324.038, RSMo<sup>1</sup>, issues this order granting a **PROBATED FUNERAL DIRECTOR LICENSE** to Christopher Shane Smith (“Smith” or “Licensee”), of 5039 Sutherland Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63109.

As set forth in Section 324.038, RSMo, Licensee may submit a written request for hearing to the Administrative Hearing Commission seeking review of the Board’s decision set forth in this Order. Such written request must be filed with the Administrative Hearing Commission within 30 days of the date the Board mails this Order to Licensee. The written request should be addressed to the Administrative Hearing Commission, Room 640, Truman State Office Building, P.O. Box 1557, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-1557. Any such request should set forth that the applicant is qualified for nonprobated licensure pursuant to the laws and administrative regulations relating to Licensee’s profession. If such review is requested, a hearing shall be held pursuant to Chapter 621, RSMo. A Commissioner of the Administrative Hearing Commission will preside over the

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<sup>1</sup> All statutory references are to the Revised Statutes of Missouri (2000), as supplemented, unless otherwise indicated.

hearing. The hearing will be on the record and recorded by a court reporter. At the hearing, Licensee shall have the right to present testimony, call witnesses on his behalf, introduce evidence, cross-examine any witnesses called by the Board, and object to any evidence introduced by the Board and make legal argument to the Commission. Following the hearing, the Administrative Hearing Commission will issue an order including findings of fact, conclusions of law and a decision based on the evidence admitted at the hearing. A copy of the Administrative Hearing Commission's order will be delivered to the parties. Chapter 536, RSMo, sets forth the procedures for review of the order of the Administrative Hearing Commission.

If no written request for review is filed with the Administrative Hearing Commission within the 30-day period, the right to seek review of the Board's decision shall be considered waived. Section 324.038.2, RSMo. Should Licensee make written request for review of this Order, the terms and conditions of this Order shall remain in full force and effect unless and until such time as the Administrative Hearing Commission or reviewing court orders otherwise.

### **Relevant Statutes**

1. Section 324.038 authorizes the Board to issue a license subject to probation in lieu of denial and states:

1. Whenever a board within or assigned to the division of professional registration, including the division itself when so

empowered, may refuse to issue a license for reasons which also serve as a basis for filing a complaint with the administrative hearing commission seeking disciplinary action against a holder of a license, the board, as an alternative to refusing to issue a license, may, at its discretion, issue to an applicant a license subject to probation.

2. The board shall notify the applicant in writing of the terms of the probation imposed, the basis therefor, and the date such action shall become effective. The notice shall also advise the applicant of the right to a hearing before the administrative hearing commission, if the applicant files a complaint with the administrative hearing commission within thirty days of the date of delivery or mailing by certified mail of written notice of the probation. If the board issues a probated license, the applicant may file, within thirty days of the date of delivery or mailing by certified mail of written notice of the probation, a written complaint with the administrative hearing commission seeking review of the board's determination. Such complaint shall set forth that the applicant or licensee is qualified for nonprobated licensure pursuant to the laws and administrative regulations relating to his or her profession. Upon receipt of such complaint the administrative hearing commission shall cause a copy of such complaint to be served upon the board by certified mail or by delivery of such copy to the office of the board, together with a notice of the place of and the date upon which the hearing on such complaint will be held. Hearings shall be held pursuant to chapter 621. The burden shall be on the board to demonstrate the existence of the basis for imposing probation on the licensee. If no written request for a hearing is received by the administrative hearing commission within the thirty-day period, the right to seek review of the board's decision shall be considered waived.

3. If the probation imposed includes restrictions or limitations on the scope of practice, the license issued shall plainly state such restriction or limitation. When such restriction or limitation is removed, a new license shall be issued.

2. Section 333.021.2, RSMo, requires a license to engage in the practice of funeral directing and states:

2. No person shall engage in the practice of funeral directing unless he has a license issued under this chapter nor shall any person use in connection with his name or business any of the words "undertaker", "mortician", "funeral home", "funeral parlor", "funeral chapel", "funeral consultant", "funeral director" or other title implying that he is in the business defined as funeral directing herein, unless he or the individual having control, supervision or management of his business is duly licensed to practice funeral directing in this state.

3. Section 333.330, RSMo, authorizes the Board to deny an application for a funeral director's license and states, in relevant portion:

1. The board may refuse to issue any certificate of registration or authority, permit, or license required under this chapter for one or any combination of causes stated in subsection 2 of this section. The board shall notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the refusal and shall advise the applicant of his or her right to file a complaint with the administrative hearing commission as provided by chapter 621.

2. The board may cause a complaint to be filed with the administrative hearing commission as provided by chapter 621 against any holder of any certificate of registration or authority, permit, or license required by this chapter, or any person who has failed to renew or has surrendered his or her certificate of registration or authority, permit, or license for any one or any combination of the following causes:

\* \* \*

(2) The person has been finally adjudicated and found guilty, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, in a criminal prosecution under the laws of any state or of the United States, for any offense reasonably related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of any profession licensed or regulated under this chapter, for any offense involving a controlled substance, or for any offense an essential element of which is fraud, dishonesty, or an act of violence;

4. Illinois statute 625 ILCS 5/11-501(a)(2), states:

(a) A person shall not drive or be in the actual physical control of any vehicle within this State while: . . .

(2) under the influence of alcohol.

### **Parties and Background**

5. The Board is an agency of the State of Missouri created and established pursuant to Section 333.151, RSMo, and vested with the authority to execute and enforcing the provisions of Chapter 333 and portions of Chapter 436, RSMo.

6. Christopher Shane Smith is an individual residing at 5039 Sutherland Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63109.

7. Smith submitted his “Application for Funeral Director’s License” to the Board that he signed before a notary public on August 6, 2012 (the “Application”).

8. Smith obtained his Associate in Applied Science, Funeral Service Education from St. Louis Community College in May, 2012.

9. Smith successfully completed the testing requirements for licensure as a funeral director.

### **Basis for Probation**

10. On his Application, Smith answered “yes” to questions that stated:

Have you ever been finally adjudicated and found guilty, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, in a criminal prosecution under the laws of any state or of the United States whether or not sentence was imposed (includes suspended imposition of sentence (SIS)).

Have you ever been arrested, charged with or found guilty, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere of a violation of any federal, state or municipal, drug or alcohol laws or rules whether or not sentence was imposed (includes suspended imposition of sentence (SIS)).

Have you ever been addicted to or used in excess, alcohol or any prescription drugs or illegal chemical substances?

Have you ever been arrested, charged with, found guilty, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere by a court (including a municipal court), pled guilty or nolo contendere to any traffic offense resulting from or related to the use of drugs or alcohol, whether or not sentence was imposed including a suspended imposition of sentence (SIS)?

11. Along with his Application, Smith provided an explanatory letter and copies of court records explaining his responses on the Application.

12. On January 23, 2010, Smith was arrested and subsequently charged with “driving 11-14 mph above limit” (44 mph in a 30 mph zone); “transp/carry alc liq/driver; and “driving under the influence of alcohol”

13. On August 5, 2010, Smith plead guilty to the charge of driving under the influence of alcohol in violation of Illinois Statute 625 ILCS 5/11-501(a)(2) and the Court sentenced Smith to 2 years of court supervision and to “alcohol treatment level 1.” *The People of the State of Illinois v. Christopher S. Smith*, in the Circuit Court of St. Clair County, Illinois, Case number 10-DT-0000077.

14. On August 5, 2010, the Court dismissed the other charges against Smith.

15. Smith completed all alcohol treatment ordered by the Court and successfully completed the term of court supervision that ended in August, 2012.

16. The Board has cause to deny Smith's application for a funeral director's license pursuant to Section 333.330.2(2), RSMo.

17. The Board finds that issuance of a probated funeral director's license, subject to certain terms and conditions, in lieu of denial, will ensure protection of the public.

**Issuance of Probated License Subject to Terms and Conditions**

The Board, in lieu of denial, hereby issues a funeral director's license to Christopher Shane Smith, on **PROBATION** for a period of **ONE YEAR** (the "Disciplinary Period") subject to the terms and conditions contained in this Order and set forth below.

**Terms and Conditions of Probation**

18. Licensee shall comply with the following terms and conditions of probation during the Disciplinary Period:

- a. Licensee shall keep the Board informed of Licensee's current work and home telephone numbers and addresses. Licensee shall notify the Board in writing within ten (10) business days of any change in this information. If Licensee utilizes e-mail, Licensee shall provide the Board with his current and active e-mail address;

- b. Licensee shall comply with all applicable provisions of Chapters 194, 333 and 436, RSMo, all Board regulations and all federal, state and local laws and regulations related to business operations in the funeral and death care industry;
- c. Licensee shall engage in no conduct that would give the Board cause to seek authority to discipline from the Administrative Hearing Commission as set forth in Section 333.330, RSMo;
- d. Licensee shall meet in person with the Board or any Board representative at any such time and place as required by the Board or its representative upon reasonable notice. Any such meetings shall be at the Board's discretion;
- e. Upon the request by the Board or its representative, Licensee shall immediately submit any and all records requested to show compliance with these terms and conditions;
- f. Licensee shall renew timely all licenses and/or registrations, shall pay timely all fees required for licensure/registration and shall meet all other requirements necessary to maintain all licenses and registrations issued by the Board current and active;
- g. Licensee shall accept and cooperate with unannounced visits from the Board, or its representatives, to monitor compliance with the terms and conditions of probation; and

h. Licensee shall not serve as the supervisor of any funeral director or embalmer apprentice without the express written consent of the Board. If Licensee seeks to supervise an apprentice, Licensee shall submit a written request to the Board that includes the name and address of the potential apprentice and a description of Licensee's ability to properly supervise an apprentice. No such apprenticeship shall commence until the Board has given its consent for Licensee to supervise the apprentice.

19. Upon the expiration of the Disciplinary Period and successful completion of the probation, Licensee's funeral director's license shall be fully restored if all other requirements of the law have been satisfied; provided however, that in the event the Board determines that Licensee has violated any term or condition of this Order, the Board may, in its discretion, after an evidentiary hearing, vacate and set aside the discipline imposed herein and may suspend, revoke, or otherwise lawfully discipline Licensee's funeral director's license.

20. The Board shall enter no order imposing further discipline on Licensee's funeral director's license without notice and an opportunity for hearing before the Board in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 536, RSMo.

21. If the Board determines that Licensee has violated a term or condition of this Order, and that violation would also be actionable in a proceeding before the Administrative Hearing Commission or in a circuit court, the Board

may elect to pursue any lawful remedies or procedures afforded to it and is not bound by this Order in its determination of appropriate legal actions concerning such violation(s).

22. If any alleged violation of this Order occurs during the Disciplinary Period, the Board may choose to conduct a hearing on the alleged violation either during the Disciplinary Period, or as soon thereafter as a hearing can be held, to determine whether a violation of the terms and conditions of probation occurred and, if so, may impose further discipline on Licensee's funeral director's license. The Board has continuing jurisdiction to hold a hearing determine if a violation of the terms and conditions of probation occurred.

23. This Order of the Board shall be maintained as an open and public record of the Board as provided in Chapters 333, 610 and 324, RSMo.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: 1.29.13

Sandy Sebastian  
Sandy Sebastian  
Executive Director  
State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors