

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

In the Matter of the Application of:

SHEN CORTEZ WILLIAMS

ORDER ISSUING A PROBATED FUNERAL DIRECTOR LICENSE

The State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (the “Board”), pursuant to Section 324.038, RSMo¹, issues this order granting a **PROBATED FUNERAL DIRECTOR LICENSE** to Shen Cortez Williams (“Williams” or “Licensee”), 10400 Lord Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63136.

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, P. O. Box 1557, United States Post Office Building, Third Floor, 131 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. 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

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

will preside over the 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, RSMo, 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 333.330, 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;

3. In 1997 when Williams plead and was adjudged guilty of Assault, 2nd degree, Section 565.060, RSMo (1994), stated:

1. A person commits the crime of assault in the second degree if he:
 - (1) Attempts to kill or knowingly causes or attempts to cause serious physical injury to another person under the influence of sudden passion arising out of adequate cause; or
 - (2) Attempts to cause or knowingly causes physical injury to another person by means of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument; or
 - (3) Recklessly causes serious physical injury to another person;
 - (4) While in an intoxicated condition or under the influence of controlled substances or drugs, operates a motor vehicle in this state and, when so operating, acts with criminal negligence to cause physical injury to any other person than himself; or
 - (5) Recklessly causes physical injury to another person by means of discharge of a firearm.

4. In 1999 when Williams plead and was adjudged guilty of the Class C felony of statutory sodomy, Section 566.064, RSMo (1994), stated:

1. A person commits the crime of statutory sodomy in the second degree if being twenty-one years of age or older, he has deviate sexual intercourse with another person who is less than seventeen years of age.

5. In 1999, “deviate sexual intercourse” was defined by Section 566.010(1), RSMo (1994) as:

[A]ny act involving the genitals of one person and the mouth, tongue, or anus of another person or a sexual act involving the penetration, however slight, of the male or female sex organ or the anus by a finger, instrument or object done for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of any person.

6. In 1999 when Williams plead and was adjudged guilty of the Class A misdemeanor of Sexual Misconduct, 2nd degree, Section 566.093, RSMo (1994) stated:

1. A person commits the crime of sexual misconduct in the second degree if he:

- (1) Exposes his genitals under circumstances in which he knows that his conduct is likely to cause affront or alarm; or
- (2) Has sexual contact in the presence of a third person or persons under circumstances in which he knows that such conduct is likely to cause affront or alarm.

Parties and Background

7. 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.

8. Shen Cortez Williams is an individual who has registered his address with the Board as 10400 Lord Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63136.

9. Williams submitted his “Application for Funeral Director’s License” to the Board that he signed before a notary public on June 17, 2016 (the “Application”).

10. Williams is over the age of 18 years.

11. Williams has met the statutory requirements for licensure.

Basis for Probation

12. On the Application, Williams answered “yes” to the question 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)).

13. Along with the Application, Williams provided a written explanation of the charges filed against him, records related to his criminal conduct and an explanation of his rehabilitation.

14. By Judgment and Sentence filed on July 17, 1997, the Court adjudged Williams guilty of the crime of Assault, 2nd Degree, a Class C felony, in violation of Section 565.060, RSMo (1994), and sentenced Williams to a suspended imposition of sentence and placed Williams on probation for five (5)

years. *State v. Williams*, Circuit Court of St. Louis County, Missouri, Case number 97CR-2533 (the “1997 Felony”).

15. On March 6, 2000, Williams plead and was adjudged guilty of the Class C felony of statutory sodomy in violation of Section 566.064, RSMo (1994) and the Class A misdemeanor charge of sexual misconduct in violation of Section 566.093, RSMo (1994), in the Circuit Court of the City of St. Louis (collectively, the “2000 Felony”).

16. On March 23, 2000, the Court revoked Williams’ probation in the 1997 Felony and sentenced Williams to 7 years incarceration. Williams served 120 days “shock time” and the court suspended execution of the remaining sentence and placed Williams on probation.

17. For the 2000 Felony, the Court suspended imposition of sentence and placed Williams on probation for two years conditioned on terms that included that he complete sex offender counseling, have no contact with the victim and was required to register as a sex offender.

18. Williams successfully completed all court requirements for the 1997 Felony and for the 2000 Felony.

19. Williams previously applied for licensure as a funeral director in July, 2011 which the Board denied. Upon appeal to the Administrative Hearing Commission, the Board’s denial was upheld. *Williams v. State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors*, Case number 13-0136.

20. Williams appeared before the Board on June 14, 2016 and offered testimony, both his own testimony and also testimony of his wife, five funeral directors and 3 pastors who appeared in support of Williams as evidence of his rehabilitation. In addition, Williams also submitted approximately 12 letters of support of his character and rehabilitation.

21. Williams has established a “removal service” and for the past three years has provided “first call removals” for funeral homes in the St. Louis area.

22. Williams has had no criminal convictions since the 2000 Felony.

23. The 1997 Felony is an offense reasonably related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a funeral director and is an offense an essential element of which is an act of violence.

24. The 2000 Felony consisted of two offenses both of which are reasonably related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a funeral director and one, statutory sodomy, is an offense for which an essential element is an act of violence.

25. The Board has cause to deny Williams’s application for a funeral director’s license pursuant to Section 333.330.2 (2), RSMo.

26. 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 Shen Cortez Williams, on **PROBATION** for a period of **FIVE YEARS** (the "Disciplinary Period") subject to the terms and conditions contained in this Order and set forth below.

Terms and Conditions of the Disciplinary Period

27. 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 including all insurance and security laws applicable to any insurance or annuity used to fund preneed funeral contracts;
- c. Licensee shall engage in no conduct that would give the Board cause to seek authority to discipline from the Administrative Hearing Commission;

- 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. Licensee shall submit written compliance reports to the Board no later than January 1 and July 1 of each year, but no compliance report shall be filed more than 14 days before it is due. These compliance reports shall contain all other information required by this Settlement Agreement and shall be filed on forms supplied by the Board, if Licensee fails to receive the form from the Board, Licensee shall have the duty to contact the Board to request the form. Licensee shall complete each compliance report truthfully, completely and accurately;
- f. 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;
- g. 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 including not allowing any license to be suspended for failure to comply with any revenue law of the state;

- h. Licensee shall accept and cooperate with unannounced visits from the Board, or its representatives, to monitor compliance with the terms and conditions of probation;
- i. Licensee shall provide any death care employer with a copy of this Order within 5 working days from the date of receipt of this Order and within 5 working days from the date of any new employment;
and
- j. Licensee shall not serve as the supervisor of any funeral director apprentice or embalmer practicum student 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.

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. 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).

31. 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.

32. 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: 9.23.2016

Sandy Sebastian

Sandy Sebastian
Executive Director
State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors