

IN THE MATTER OF  
JOHN L. WILLIAMS

License Number M00952  
Board Case Number -

\* BEFORE THE MARYLAND  
\* STATE BOARD OF MORTICIANS  
\* AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
\*  
\*

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**PRE-CHARGE CONSENT ORDER**

**PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

The Maryland State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors (the "Board") and John L. Williams (the "Respondent") have agreed, in lieu of the Board's filing formal charges, to enter into this Pre-Charge Consent Order (the "Order"). The Respondent waives his right to a hearing and agrees to be sanctioned by the Board. This Order is based upon the Board's belief that the Respondent violated provisions of the Maryland Morticians and Funeral Directors Act ("the Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. ("H.O.") §§ 7-101 *et seq.* (2009 Repl. Vol. ).

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. At all times relevant, the Respondent was and is licensed to practice mortuary science in the State of Maryland under license number M00952.
2. At all times relevant, the Respondent owned and operated John L. Williams Funeral Directors, P.A., license number E00485, located at 4517 Park Heights Avenue in Baltimore City.
3. Based upon a complaint regarding unauthorized and unlicensed practice, a Complaint Resolution Conference was held with the Respondent on November 9, 2011, at which time it was revealed that:
  - Larry White, known to the Board and to the Respondent as an unlicensed individual, referred a family to the Respondent in order to make funeral arrangements for a deceased family member who had died in New Jersey when he was hung from a tree;

- White told the Respondent that the “family wants to use you;”
- White had appeared at the families home holding himself out as a funeral director. In so doing White collected pertinent details regarding the deceased’s name and location;
- White, who had a set of keys to the Respondent’s funeral home, picked up the deceased in New Jersey under questionable circumstances, delivering the remains to the Respondent’s preparation room;
- The Respondent concluded funeral arrangements with the family;
- It was the families impression that White was a licensed funeral director.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board finds that the Respondent violated H.O. § 316-(a)(7) by he allowing an unlicensed individual to act on his behalf; and acted in an unprofessional manner, a violation of H.O. § 7-316(a)(26) by allowing an unlicensed individual unfettered access to the funeral home and, in particular, the preparation room and by allowing an unlicensed individual to act on his behalf.

### **ORDER**

**ORDERED** that the Respondent’s license to practice mortuary science in Maryland shall be **SUSPENDED** for a period of fifteen days (15) beginning form the effective date of the Order<sup>1</sup>; and it is further

**ORDERED** that at the expiration of the fifteen (15) day period of suspension, there being no open complaints against him, the Board shall reinstate the Respondent’s license; and it is further

**ORDERED** that should there be open complaints against the Respondent at the expiration of

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<sup>1</sup> The effective of the Order is the date of Board acceptance.

the fifteen (15) day period of suspension, then it will be at the Board's discretion whether to reinstate the Respondent's license; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of one (1) year to commence on the date his license is reinstated; and it is further

**ORDERED** that no earlier than one (1) year from the effective date of reinstatement, the Respondent may petition the Board for termination of his probationary status. It shall be within the Board's discretion to grant such a request; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall return his Maryland Morticians license number M00952 to the Board to be held for the duration of the period of suspension; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred under this Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall comply with and practice within all statutes and regulations governing the practice of mortuary science and funeral direction in the State of Maryland; and it is further

**ORDERED** that any violation of the terms and conditions of this Order shall constitute unprofessional conduct in addition to any applicable grounds under the Act; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this Consent Order is a PUBLIC DOCUMENT as defined in Md. State Gov't Code Ann. §§ 10-611 et seq. (2009 ).

2/28/12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hari Close  
President

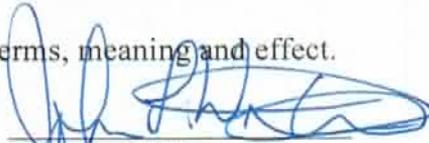
CONSENT

I, John L. Williams, License Number M00952, by signing this Consent agree to the findings of fact and conclusions of law and further agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the foregoing Pre-Charge Consent Order as resolution to this matter. I waive any rights I may have had to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Pre-Charge Consent Order as if it were made after a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections to which I am entitled by law. I also recognize that I am waiving my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing and am also waiving any other legal remedies I may have regarding resolution of this matter.

I have had the opportunity to review this Pre-Charge Consent Order with an attorney of my choice and sign it voluntarily, understanding its terms, meaning and effect.

27 Feb 2012  
Date

  
John L. Williams

NOTARY

STATE OF MARYLAND

CITY COUNTY OF BALTIMORE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 27<sup>TH</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2012, before me, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and the City/County aforesaid, personally appeared John L. Williams, and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notarial seal.

  
Steven Jay Shinn  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 8/23/2015