

**OFFICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE
REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

IN THE MATTER OF:)	ADMINISTRATIVE
COOK FUNERAL HOMES)	PROCEEDING NUMBER:
2110 J.R. LYNCH STREET)	
JACKSON, MS 39284)	LPR-19-3547
)	
<i>Respondent</i>)	

CONSENT ORDER

I. Jurisdiction

Finding it appropriate and in the public interest, the Regulation and Enforcement Division of the Office of the Secretary of State of Mississippi (“Division”), on behalf of the Secretary of State, having the power to administer and provide for the Mississippi Preneed Cemetery and Funeral Registration Act, Mississippi Code Annotated Sections 75-63-51 to 75-63-75 (“Act”), and Respondent do hereby enter into this Consent Order (“Order”). This Order is entered into by the Division and the Respondent in lieu of the issuance of formal charges by the Division alleging a violation of the Act.

II. Agreement

In consideration of a final resolution of the matters set forth herein, the Division and Respondent hereby agree, stipulate, and undertake as follows:

1. Respondent admits the jurisdiction of the Division as to all parties and matters herein under the authority of the Act.
2. Cook Funeral Homes (“Cook”) was a preneed provider that was not registered with the Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office.
3. Dr. Lashawn Steptoe was the Director, Treasurer, and Secretary of Cook Funeral Home when it was in operation; therefore, she is responsible for that business’ actions. She is

also the owner of another funeral home entity that is currently in operation at the same location.

4. Respondent hereby admits to the following violations of the Act:
 - a. Cook, in violation of Mississippi Code Annotated Section 75-63-55(3), sold at least one (1) preneed contract that was not funded by trust or insurance.
5. Respondent agrees to follow the laws contained in the Mississippi Preneed Cemetery and Funeral Registration Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
6. Respondent will remit a refund to Ms. Johnnie Mae Robinson in the amount of Two Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$2,395.00) on or before June 30, 2019, which amount represents the amount which should have been trusted under the laws current at the time the contract was written. After this refund has been remitted, Respondent will send proof to the Division. The Division will also seek proof from Ms. Robinson.
7. Respondent is aware of the right to a hearing on this matter at which Respondent may be represented by counsel, present evidence, and cross-examine witnesses. Respondent hereby irrevocably waives the right to such a hearing.
8. Respondent understands that the entry of this Order represents the settlement of an impending regulatory charge by the Division against Respondent as of the date of this Order.
9. Respondent understands that the Division retains jurisdiction over the matters addressed in this Consent Order until all obligations by Respondent are fulfilled.

III. Acknowledgement


The parties acknowledge that they have read this Order in its entirety and fully understand the rights, terms, and obligations of each contained herein. The parties also acknowledge that

they have been vested with the express authority to enter into this Order. The parties further acknowledge that they have not been threatened or otherwise coerced into entering into this Consent Order.


The undersigned hereby acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions of the foregoing Order by written consent.

So Agreed, this the 20 day of May, 2019.

COOK FUNERAL HOME

BY: 
Dr. Lashawn Steptoe,
Director
Date: 5/20/2019

C. DELBERT HOSEMANN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE
In his Official Capacity

BY: 
Amy C. Foster
Senior Attorney,
Regulation and Enforcement
Date: 5/22/19