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

IN THE MATTER OF: WILLIAMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME
208 Prairie Street
Okolona, Mississippi 38860

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING NUMBER:
LPR-20-4014

Respondent

CONSENT ORDER

I. Jurisdiction

Finding it appropriate and in the public interest, the Regulation and Enforcement Division of the Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office (the “Division”) on behalf of the Secretary of State, having the power to administer and to provide for the Mississippi Preneed Cemetery and Funeral Registration Act (Mississippi Code Ann. Section 75-63-51 to 75-63-81) (the “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 violations of the Act.

II. Agreement

Respondent, Williams Memorial Funeral Home (“Williams”), admits to the jurisdiction of the Division as to all parties and all matters provided herein under the authority of the Act. In consideration of a final resolution of the matters set forth herein, the Division and the Respondent hereby agree, stipulate, and undertake as follows:

1. Williams is a preneed provider that is not registered with the Secretary of State’s office, as required under Mississippi Code Annotated Section 75-63-65.

2. Williams hereby admits to the following violations of the Act:
a. Williams sold at least nine (9) preneed contracts, with a total face value of $22,341.00, while not registered with the Division to sell preneed services and merchandise, in violation of Mississippi Code Annotated Section 75-63-65.

b. Williams sold at least nine (9) preneed contracts on forms that were not approved by the Division, in violation of Mississippi Code Annotated Section 75-63-55(1).

3. Williams agrees to follow the laws contained in the Act and the regulations promulgated under the Act.

4. Williams agrees to cease and desist selling preneed services and merchandise while not registered/licensed by the Division to do so.

5. Williams agrees to immediately remove all pre-need items from their advertising and any list of products and services offered by Williams.

6. As a condition of this Agreement, Williams will remit an administrative fine to the Secretary of State’s Office in the amount of One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00), for its violations of the Act, as authorized under Mississippi Code Annotated Section 75-63-69(1)(b). Payment of said administrative fine shall be due within thirty (30) days after execution of this Agreement.

7. Williams is aware of the right to a hearing on this matter at which Williams may be represented by counsel, present evidence, and cross-examine witnesses. Williams hereby irrevocably waives the right to such a hearing.

8. Williams understands that the execution of this Agreement represents the settlement of impending regulatory claims by the Division against Williams as of the date of this Agreement.
9. Williams understands that the Division retains jurisdiction over the matters addressed in this Consent Agreement until all obligations by respondent are fulfilled.

III. Acknowledgement

The parties acknowledge that they have read this Agreement 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 Agreement. The parties further acknowledge that they have not been threatened or otherwise coerced into entering into this Agreement. The undersigned hereby acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions of the foregoing Agreement by written consent.

So Agreed, this the 3rd day of August, 2020.

WILLIAMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

BY: 
WILLIAM BAILEY
Title: Vice-President
Date: Aug 3, 2020

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE
In his Official capacity

BY: 
JEFFREY L. LEE
Assistant Secretary of State
Regulation and Enforcement Division
Date: 8-5-2020