



# State of Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

77 South High Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6108 • Phone: (614) 466-4252 • Fax (614) 728-6825  
E-Mail: [oh.emb.bd@funeral.ohio.gov](mailto:oh.emb.bd@funeral.ohio.gov) • Website: [www.funeral.ohio.gov](http://www.funeral.ohio.gov)

## NOTICE OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

June 14, 2010

Routson Funeral Chapel  
Gregory J. Routson  
201 Osborn Avenue  
Findlay, OH 45840

Mr. Routson:

Enclosed please find certified copies of the Entry of Order, the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, and an Order of Summary Suspension and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing pursuant to R.C. Section 4717.14 (C). Those attached documents are fully incorporated herein.

You are advised that continued practice of embalming and/or funeral directing after receipt of this Order shall be considered practicing without a license, in violation of R.C. Section 4717.14 (A)(4), R.C. Section 4717.14 (A)(3) as it incorporates Administrative Rule 4717-1-18 (F) and R.C. Section 4717.14 (A)(3) as it incorporates R.C. Section 3705.29 (A)(1) and R.C. Section 3705.29 (C)(4).

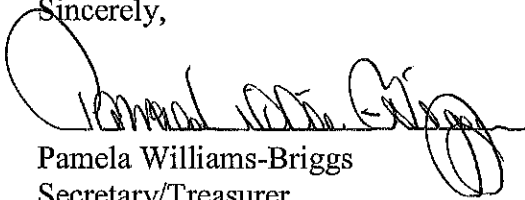
Additionally, pursuant to R.C. Chapter 119 and R.C. 4717.14 (C), you are hereby advised that you are entitled to a hearing on the allegations set forth in the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. If you wish to request such hearing, that request must be made in writing and be received in the offices of the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors within thirty (30) days of the date of mailing of this notice. Further information concerning such hearing is contained within the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.

R.C. Section 119.12 may authorize an appeal from this Order of Summary Suspension. Such an appeal may be taken to the Court of Common Pleas in the county where you are a resident or do business. If you are no longer a resident of Ohio or have no place of business in Ohio, such an appeal may be taken in Franklin County. Such an appeal, setting forth the Order appealed from and the grounds of appeal, must be commenced by the filing of a Notice of Appeal with the

Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors and a copy of the Notice of Appeal with the Court within fifteen (15) days after the mailing of this notice and in accordance with the requirements of R.C. Section 119.07.

The date of the mailing of this notice is June 14, 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pamela Williams-Briggs', with a large circular flourish at the end.

Pamela Williams-Briggs  
Secretary/Treasurer

Certified Mail No. 7004 1160 0000 5915 3200  
Return Receipt Requested

Enclosures

cc: Cheryl Hawkinson, AAG



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## BEFORE THE BOARD OF EMBALMERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS

IN THE MATTER OF :

GREGORY J. ROUTSON :

Embalmer License #007828  
Funeral Director License #007256  
ROUTSON FUNERAL CHAPEL  
Funeral Home License #1939

### ENTRY OF ORDER

This matter came on for consideration before the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Director on the 14th day of June 2010.

Pursuant to Section 4717.14 (C) of the Ohio Revised Code, and upon consideration of written allegations prepared by the Executive Director, and

Pursuant to the determination that there is clear and convincing evidence that Gregory J. Routson and Routson Funeral Chapel have violated the following:

**R.C. 4717.14 (A)(4)** The applicant or licensee has committed immoral or unprofessional conduct.

**(5)** The applicant or licensee knowingly permitted an unlicensed person, other than a person serving an apprenticeship, to engage in the profession or business of embalming or funeral directing under the applicant's or licensee's supervision.

**(6)** The applicant or licensee has been habitually intoxicated, or is addicted to the use of morphine, cocaine, or other habit-forming or illegal drugs.

**R.C. 4717.24 (A) (16)** The certification of the authorizing agent to the effect that all of the information and statements contained in the authorization form are accurate;

**(C)** An authorizing agent who signs a cremation authorization form under this section is hereby deemed to warrant the accuracy of the information and statements contained in the authorization form, including the person's authority to authorize the cremation.

**OAC 4717-1-16 (B) (2) (a) (ii) (a)** Every funeral home or branch funeral home shall possess and keep in good working condition on the premises such equipment and paraphernalia as the board deems adequate for the conduct of business and the protection of the public health. All portions

of a funeral home which are accessible to or used by the general public shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

**(b)** If embalming will take place at the funeral home. The funeral home shall maintain on the premises a preparation or embalming room which shall be adequately equipped and maintained in a sanitary manner for the preservation and care of dead human bodies. Such rooms shall contain only the articles, facilities and instruments necessary for the preparation of dead human bodies for burial or final disposition and shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition. Such rooms shall be used only for the care and preparation of dead human bodies. The minimal requirements for the preparation or embalming room shall be as follows:

**(i)** Sanitary floor;

**(ii)** All instruments and appliances used in the embalming of a dead human body shall be thoroughly cleansed and sterilized using an appropriate disinfectant immediately at the conclusion of each individual case;

**(ix)** Containers for refuse, trash and soiled linens shall be adequately covered or sealed at all times;

**(xii)** All waste materials, refuse, used bandages and cotton shall be destroyed in accordance with all applicable OSHA and EPA regulations;

**(xiv)** All bodies in the preparation room should be treated with proper care and dignity and should be properly covered at all times.

**OAC 4717-1-18 (D)** Violations of the federal trade commission's funeral industry rule, codified as Chapter 16, Part 453 of the Code of Federal Regulations (hereinafter, referred to as the "funeral rule"). The funeral rule became effective on January 11, 1994. A copy is available on the federal trade commission's website at <http://www.ftc.gov>.

As alleged in the Notice of Summary Suspension and Opportunity for Hearing which is enclosed herewith and fully incorporated herein, which determinations are based upon review of information received pursuant to an investigation; and

Pursuant to their further determination that Gregory J. Routson's and Routson Funeral Chapel continued practice presents a danger of immediate and serious harm to the public; and further

The following Order is hereby entered on the Records of Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors the 14th day of June 2010;


It is hereby ORDERED that the embalmer and funeral director licenses of Gregory J. Routson in the State of Ohio be summarily suspended.

It is hereby ORDERED that Gregory J. Routson shall immediately cease the practice of embalming and funeral directing.

It is hereby ORDERED that Routson Funeral Chapel shall immediately cease all operations.

It is hereby ordered Gregory J. Routson shall provide the Board with a list of preneed contracts and shall notify the families and transfer all preneed contracts immediately upon the request of the families.

This Order shall become effective immediately.



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Pamela Williams-Briggs  
Secretary/Treasurer

      July 14, 2010        
Date

(SEAL)



# State of Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

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## NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

June 14, 2010

Routson Funeral Chapel  
Gregory J. Routson  
201 Osborn Avenue  
Findlay, OH 45840

Mr. Routson:

In accordance with R.C. Chapter 119, you are hereby notified that the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors [Board] intends to determine whether or not to limit, revoke, or suspend your embalmer, funeral director and funeral home license for one or more of the following reasons:

1. You have committed immoral or unprofessional conduct, a violation of R.C. 4717.14(A)(4), by failing to meet with families to arrange funeral services; unprofessional embalming; inappropriate condition of corpse;
2. You have violated R.C. 4717.14 (A) (5) by allowing unlicensed staff members to meet with families for the purpose of selling and arranging funeral services.
3. You have violated R.C. 4717.14 (A) (6) by being habitually intoxicated, or addicted to the use of morphine, cocaine, or other habit-forming or illegal drugs. Eyewitness accounts have been provided regarding this addiction and the Board's inspector's witnessed questionable behavior during the inspection on June 8, 2010.
4. You have violated R.C. 4717.24 (A) (16) and R.C. 4717.24(C) by certifying that all information on cremation authorization forms is accurate, including the person's authority to authorize the cremation. Evidence obtained indicates the authorizing agent in one or more instances did not complete a cremation authorization form and the form was completed solely by the licensee.
5. You have violated OAC 4717-1-16 (B)(2)(a)(ii)(a); OAC 4717-1-16 (B)(2)(a)(ii)(b); OAC 4717-1-16 (B)(2)(a)(ii)(b)(i); OAC 4717-1-16 (B)(2)(a)(ii)(b)(ii); OAC 4717-1-16 (B)(2)(a)(ii)(b)(ix); OAC 4717-1-16 (B)(2)(a)(ii)(b)(xii); OAC 4717-1-16 (B)(2)(a)(ii)(b)(xiv); Including, but not limited to, keeping refuse and soiled linens in a public area; failing to keep the preparation room in a clean and sanitary condition; failing to maintain a sanitary floor; failing to properly sterilize all instruments used in the embalming; failing to keep containers for refuse, trash and soiled linens covered; failure

Routson #1006095

July 14, 2010

to destroy waste materials in accordance with all applicable OSHA and EPA regulations; failing to treat at least one body with proper care and dignity by partially embalming and leaving the body un-refrigerated for a period of 13 days.

6. You have violated OAC 4717-1-18 (D) by failing to provide families with a statement of goods and services at the conclusion of finalizing funeral arrangements.
7. You have committed immoral or unprofessional conduct by threatening and/or harassing employees.
8. You have committed immoral or unprofessional conduct by using a temporary container that previously contained cremated remains to make a gift for funeral director's female employees.
9. The licensee has committed immoral or unprofessional conduct by being in the funeral home naked or partially clothed during business hours in the public areas.
10. You have committed immoral or unprofessional conduct by putting on the jacket of the deceased in front of the family.
11. You have committed immoral or unprofessional conduct by misappropriating monies from memorial contributions for families of the deceased.
12. You have committed immoral or unprofessional conduct by failing to oversee the daily operations of the funeral home, as required by being the manager and licensee actually in charge of and ultimately responsible for the funeral home.

Pursuant to R.C. Chapter 119, you are hereby advised that you are entitled to a hearing in this matter. If you wish to request such hearing, the request must be made in writing and must be received in the office of the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors within thirty (30) days of the date of mailing of this notice. Please note that if you are a corporation, a limited liability company, company of a limited liability partnership you must be represented by counsel.

You are further advised that, if you timely request a hearing, you are entitled to appear at such hearing in person, or by your attorney, or you may present your position, arguments, or contentions in writing, and that at the hearing you may present evidence and examine witnesses appearing for or against you.

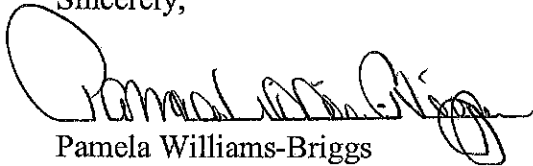
In the event that there is no request for a hearing received within thirty (30) days of the date of mailing of this notice, the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors may revoke the licenses.

The license(s) that are subject to Board action are as follows:

Funeral Home	FH 001939
Embalmer	EMB 007828
Funeral Director	FD 007256

The date of the mailing of this notice is June 14, 2010.

Sincerely,



Pamela Williams-Briggs  
Secretary/Treasurer

Certified Mail No. 7004 1160 0000 5915 3200  
Return Receipt Requested

Enclosures

cc: Cheryl Hawkinson, AAG