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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pilla, Governor

MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTING AND EMBALMING

State Office Building
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE
Lower Level, Morrill Room

Thursday
January 22, 2026
9:00 a.m.

This meeting will be held by WebEx conference and in-person. The public is welcome to attend any Open Session discussion at the State Office Building Lower Level. This meeting will also be available to the public to participate by WEBEX using this link:

<https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=m553b0a0194bd56c3802317cf601e8cbb>

or call in information is **1-408-418-9388** using meeting number of **2492 430 9261**

Here is a link to the Open Meetings Act:

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/display_html.php?begin_section=84-1407&end_section=84-1414

Here is a link to a copy of all the Open Session discussion items:

<https://dhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Board-Meeting-Documents.aspx>

1. Roll Call & Announcement: *A current copy of the Open Meetings Act is available in the meeting room.*
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – October 30, 2025
4. **approximately 9:15 am** - Investigational Reports – **CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-1,105** (*The Board will go into closed session for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals.*)
 - a. Investigation Cases
5. Application Review – **CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1410 approximately 10:00 am** - **OPEN SESSION**
6. Updates and Reports
 - a. Legislation
 - b. Nebraska Funeral Directing Association (NEFDA) <http://www.nefda.org>
 - c. International Conference of Funeral Service Examination Board, Inc. (ICFSEB) <http://www.theconferenceonline.org>
 - d. Reports: Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Actions, License Statistics, and Examinations Statistics (Attached)
7. Designation of the Method by Which This Body Gives Public Notice of Its Meetings
8. Election of Officers
9. Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming 2026 Meeting Schedule – Next scheduled meeting is March 26, 2026
10. Public Comment
11. Adjournment

Contact Information: Heather Ord at 402-471-4926 or Heather.Ord@nebraska.gov

All items known at time of distribution of this agenda are listed; a current agenda is available on the Bulletin Board, First Floor, State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Notice: A tape recording of the meeting will be made for the purpose of preparing minutes of the meeting. Said tape will not be transcribed but will be available to the public until such time that the minutes of this meeting are approved by the Board. In accordance with the records retention schedule of the Licensure Unit as authorized by Nebraska Statute, the Division may dispose of the tapes ten (10) days after the meeting; however, staff shall retain the tapes until the Board has approved the minutes.

Auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations needed to participate in a meeting can be requested by calling Heather Ord with the Licensure Unit at 402-471-2117 (voice). Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call DHHS via Nebraska Relay System at 711 or (800)833-7352 (TDD) at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

Agenda Item 3:

These minutes have not been approved by the Board

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTING AND EMBALMING**
October 30, 2025

1. ROLL CALL

The Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming was called to order by the Chair, Steven Brunken, at 9:00 a.m., at the Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lower-Level Morrill Room, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was conducted In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered roll call.

Steven Brunken, Chairperson
Amy Blinston, Vice-Chairperson
James Conner, Secretary

Absent:
Leo Seger

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Also present were: Sean Loving, Program Manager; Heather Ord, Health Licensing Coordinator; Cree Jarrett, Administrative Technician; Katherine Amyot, Department Legal; T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General; Mark Meyerson, Investigator; Randy Clark, Investigator of the Investigations Unit.

Brunken announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> and posted in the Licensure Unit on October 23, 2025.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Conner moved, seconded by Blinston, to approve the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Brunken, Blinston, Conner Voting nay: none. Abstain: none Absent: Seger Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 12, 2025

Blinston moved, seconded by Conner, to approve the minutes as presented. Voting aye: Brunken, Blinston, Conner Voting nay: none. Abstain: none Absent: Seger Motion carried.

4. INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS & OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – CLOSED SESSION

Conner moved, seconded by Blinston, to enter into closed session at 10:44 a.m. for the purpose of hearing discussions of an investigative/confidential nature and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Buckminster repeated the motion and purpose. Voting aye: Brunken, Blinston, Conner Voting nay: none. Abstain: none Absent: Seger Motion carried.

5. OPEN SESSION Application review and recommendations (initial licensure, reinstatement, convictions, administrative penalties, and mail ballot reports)

The board returned to open session at 10:44 a.m.

6. UPDATES AND REPORTS

- a) **Legislation:** There are no updates at this time.
- b) **Nebraska Funeral Directing Association (NEFDA):** <http://www.nefda.org> – no updates at this time.

c) **International Conference of Funeral Service Examination Board (ICFSEB):** <https://theconferenceonline.org/>

Conner moved, seconded by Blinston, to request funding for Brunken to attend as a delegate to the 122nd International Conference of Funeral Service Examination Board (ICFSEB) from February 24, 2026 to February 26, 2026. Voting aye: Brunken, Blinston, Conner Voting nay: none. Abstain: none Absent: Seger Motion carried.

d) **Reports: Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Actions; License Statistics; and Examinations:** No discussion at this time

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting date will be January 22nd, 2026. There being no further business, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming

Summarized by: Heather Ord, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit

Agenda Item 6d:**License Statistics:**

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, LICENSURE UNIT
SUMMARY COUNT OF LICENSES BY LICENSE STATUS



Funeral Directing

Run Date: 1/6/2026

	Active	Active-Military	Application File Closed	Closed	Deleted	Expired	Inactive	Lapsed	NonDisc Revocation	Null and Void	Pending	Revocation	Suspension	Voluntary Surrender	Withdrawn	Total
Apprentice-Full	6	0	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	205	1	0	0	0	1	222
Apprentice-Split 1	5	0	6	0	1	0	1	0	0	146	2	0	0	0	0	161
Apprentice-Split 2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	97	0	0	0	0	0	99
Branch Establishment	95	0	2	71	1	71	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	2	266
Embalmer	0	0	0	0	0	3	172	8	278	18	0	0	0	14	0	493
Funeral Director	1	0	0	0	0	4	113	12	202	39	0	1	0	13	0	385
Funeral Director and Embalmer	414	1	113	0	0	123	295	19	201	113	1	5	1	14	8	1,308
Funeral Establishment	163	0	3	171	2	60	2	0	29	49	1	1	0	2	5	488
Total	686	1	130	242	4	264	585	39	713	686	5	7	1	43	16	3,422

Licensee Summary By Status Report

Run Date: 01/06/2026

Page No: 2

Profession: Crematory, Funeral Directing

License Type: Crematory - Crematory, Funeral Directing - Apprentice-Full, Funeral Directing - Apprentice-Split 1, Funeral Directing - Apprentice-Split 2, Funeral Directing - Branch Establishment, Funeral

License Status: Apprentice-Full, Funeral Directing - Funeral Director, Funeral Directing - Funeral Director and Embalmer, Funeral Directing - Funeral Establishment

Date Range: None

Profession	License Type	License Status	Total
Crematory			
	Crematory	Active	30
Crematory Total:			
30			

Profession	License Type	License Status	Total
Funeral Directing			
	Apprentice-Full	Active	6
	Apprentice-Split 1	Active	5
	Apprentice-Split 2	Active	2
	Branch Establishment	Active	95
	Funeral Director	Active	1
	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Active	414
	Funeral Establishment	Active	163
Funeral Directing Total:			
686			
Total Licenses :			
716			

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, LICENSURE UNIT**



EXAMINATION STATISTICS SUMMARY REPORT

Profession: Funeral Directing

Date Range: 10/10/2025 to 01/06/2026

Exam Battery	Exam Name	Result	Number of Candidates
National Arts Exam Section	3-ARTS TOTAL	Pass	2
National Arts Exam Section total:			2
National Science Exam Section	4-SCIENCE TOTAL	Pass	3
National Science Exam Section total:			3
Report total:			5

Compliance Listing

Sort Name	License No	License Type	License Status	Sanction	Sanction Start	Sanction End
Kurtzhals Terry J	965	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Revocation	Civil Penalty	11/13/1995	11/13/1995
Thompson Harlan Martel	1082	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Expired	Civil Penalty	11/28/2001	12/07/2001
Jones, Keith A	1165	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Active	Civil Penalty	07/29/2004	11/30/2004
Schmidt James L	921	Funeral Director	Expired	Civil Penalty	09/22/2004	03/22/2005
Schmidt James L	921	Funeral Director	Expired	Suspension	09/22/2004	03/22/2005
Rozanek, R A	1155	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Revocation	Civil Penalty	02/15/2005	05/16/2005
Kundl, Jeffrey R	1200	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Active	Civil Penalty	11/29/2004	05/29/2005
Rozanek, R A	1155	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Revocation	Suspension	03/17/2005	06/15/2005
Beckenhauer, Gerald Leonard	1080	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Expired	Civil Penalty	02/15/2005	08/15/2005
Cantrell Funeral Home	2073	Funeral Establishment	Active	Civil Penalty	09/22/2004	09/22/2005
Knott Funeral Home	2263	Funeral Establishment	Null and Void	Suspension	02/26/2006	03/28/2006
Thomas Funeral Home	887	Funeral Establishment	Expired	Civil Penalty	03/13/2007	06/13/2007
Roper & Sons, Inc	2182	Funeral Establishment	Active	Civil Penalty	04/06/2007	07/06/2007
Rozanek, R A	1155	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Revocation	Civil Penalty	09/25/2009	03/25/2010
Dubas, Steve R	1238	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Active	Civil Penalty	03/31/2010	10/01/2010
Roby, Keith Leland	880	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Active	Suspension	01/06/2013	02/05/2013
Solt, Leslie Mitchell	1398	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Active	Civil Penalty	04/12/2013	10/12/2013
Roby, Keith Leland	880	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Active	Civil Penalty	12/27/2012	12/27/2013
Lauber, William J	1097	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Null and Void	Civil Penalty	10/23/2013	04/23/2014
Rozanek, Rodney Adolph	666	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Active	Civil Penalty	01/10/2014	07/10/2014
Westlawn-Hillcrest Memorial Park & Funeral Home Crematory	2295	Funeral Establishment	Null and Void	Civil Penalty	08/26/2016	02/26/2017
Rozanek, Rodney Adolph	666	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Active	Civil Penalty	10/04/2017	04/04/2018
Braman Mortuary	2288	Funeral Establishment	Active	Civil Penalty	01/08/2019	07/08/2019
Fischer, Kara Michelle	1198	Funeral Director and Embalmer	Active	Civil Penalty	11/20/2024	05/30/2025