

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF  
EMBALMERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

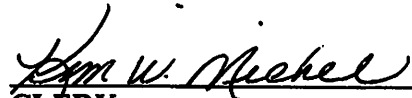
**IN THE MATTER OF  
DARLENE ST. ROMAINE**

**COMPLAINT NO:  
23.24.0030**

**and the entity operating as**

**ST. EDWARDS FUNERAL  
HOME  
BUNKIE, LOUISIANA**

**FILED: December 22, 2025**

  
**CLERK**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND BOARD ORDER**

The above-captioned matter came before the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors ("LSBEFD" or "Board") on August ,7 2025. An Admission and Consent was submitted to the Board for consideration in lieu of a formal administrative hearing.

**APPEARANCES**

The following were present at the formal hearing:

**BOARD MEMBERS: STEPHEN BOUDREAUX, LOUIS CHARBONNET, WILLIE DAVIS, SHELTON DIXON, JUAN JOSEPH, TERRY LUNEAU, RODNEY MCFARLAND, and MAURICE SOUTHALL;**

**CHANEL R. DEBOSE, Prosecuting Attorney, for and on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors;**

**KIM MICHEL, Executive Director, for and on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors;**

**CARRIE L. JONES, General Counsel, for and on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors;**

**DARLENE ST. ROMAINE, individually, and as the designated registered agent and owner of ST. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME, Bunkie, Louisiana**

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. St. Edwards Funeral Home, Bunkie, Louisiana, was licensed as a funeral establishment on or about October 12, 2011, as evidenced by Establishment License #2933 and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board.
2. Darlene St. Romaine is the non-licensed owner and designated agent of the entity operating as St. Edwards Funeral Home. Darlene St. Romaine was previously a registered intern with the Board; however, her intern registration expired at the end of 2023. Darlene St. Romaine was a registered intern during the relevant time period.
3. An Admission and Consent was presented to the Board on August 7, 2025, in which  
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Darlene St. Romaine, individually, and as the designated registered agent and owner of St. Edwards Funeral Home, Bunkie, Louisiana (collectively referred to as "Respondents"), admitted and consented to the jurisdiction of the Board over these matters, acknowledged the Board's power and authority to accept and enter into such decree, and waived their appearance and all notice requirements.

4. Respondents admitted to the following:

- Darlene St. Romaine, owner and designated agent of the entity operating as St. Edwards Funeral Home, and St. Edwards Funeral Home have violated LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (5) (Unprofessional, Unethical, and Dishonest Conduct) by failing to abide by the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors' order issued on March 12, 2025 and memorialized in writing in the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Board Order on or around March 20, 2025, ordering St. Edwards Funeral Home to place a sign on the establishment's door that is viewable to the public stating that the funeral establishment's license is suspended for three months, effective March 16, 2025, at 12:01 a.m.; more specifically, on or around March 24, 2025, while following the instructions of Executive Director, Kim Michel, to deliver the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Board Order to St. Edwards Funeral Home, R. DeMale Bowden, noticed that signage was posted on the door of St. Edwards Funeral Home. On April 16, 2025, in passing by the funeral establishment, Board Member, Terry Luneau noticed that there was no signage posted on the door of St. Edwards Funeral Home notifying the public that the funeral establishment's license was suspended.
- Darlene St. Romaine, owner and designated agent of the entity operating as St. Edwards Funeral Home, and St. Edwards Funeral Home have allegedly violated LA. R.S. 37:846 (A) (5) (Unprofessional, Unethical, and Dishonest Conduct) by failing to abide by the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors' order issued on March 12, 2025 and memorialized in writing in the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Board Order on or around March 20, 2025, suspending the license of St. Edwards Funeral Home for three months, effective March 16, 2025, at 12:01 a.m.; more specifically, on or around April 17, 2025 inspector, R. DeMale Bowden, received a call from licensees in the area in reference to a family making a post via social media that St. Edwards Funeral Home would be open for a service on April 19, 2025. Subsequent calls and conversations verified that St. Edwards Funeral Home hosted a funeral at its establishment on April 19, 2025.

5. Respondents admitted to violating the following laws:

- LA R.S. 37:846 (A)(5) (Unprofessional, Unethical, or Dishonest Conduct) (Deceiving the Louisiana Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors by Failing to Abide by the Board's Order directing the firm to place a sign on the establishment's door that is viewable to the public stating that the funeral establishment's license is suspended for three months, effective March 16, 2025, at 12:01 a.m.); and
- LA R.S. 37:846 (A)(5) (Unprofessional, Unethical, or Dishonest Conduct) (Deceiving the Louisiana Board of Embalmers and Funeral directors by Failing to Abide by the Board's Order suspending the license of St. Edwards Funeral Home for three months, effective March 16, 2025, at 12:01 a.m. by hosting a funeral at its establishment on April 19, 2025).

6. Respondents consented to the use of the formal admissions in the Admission and Consent.

7. Respondents consented to the imposition of any reasonable sanctions and penalties within the Board's discretion, which may include:

- 1) enjoining a person or establishment violating the provisions of [the Boards' rules and regulations] from practicing the science of embalming, conducting the business of funeral directing, operating a funeral establishment, engaging in the practice of cremation, or operating a crematory retort as may be the case, until such person

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complies with the requirements of [the Board's rules and regulations]. The injunction, if granted, shall not be suspended by bond or appeal, and the person or establishment enjoined shall be cast for attorney fees and court costs pursuant to LA R.S. 37:849; and

- 2) subjecting a person or establishment to a fine of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$2,500.00 for each offense plus costs of the court reporter and attorney for the board, or by imprisonment for not less than thirty days nor more than one-hundred eighty days for each offense, or both such fine and imprisonment, pursuant to LA R.S. 37:850 or Title 46, Chapter 23, under which the Board operates.
8. Respondents agreed to immediately cease and desist in any further actions in violation of: LA R.S. 37:846 (A)(5) (Unprofessional, Unethical, or Dishonest Conduct) (Deceiving the Louisiana Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors by Failing to Abide by the Board's Order directing the firm to place a sign on the establishment's door that is viewable to the public stating that the funeral establishment's license is suspended for three months, effective March 16, 2025, at 12:01 a.m.); and LA R.S. 37:846 (A)(5) (Unprofessional, Unethical, or Dishonest Conduct) (Deceiving the Louisiana Board of Embalmers and Funeral directors by Failing to Abide by the Board's Order suspending the license of St. Edwards Funeral Home for three months, effective March 16, 2025, at 12:01 a.m. by hosting a funeral at its establishment on April 19, 2025) as such would subject Darlene St. Romaine and St. Edwards Funeral Home, Bunkie, Louisiana to additional sanctions by the Board.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The board may refuse to grant, refuse to renew, suspend, or revoke any license or impose a sanction or fine in keeping with the penalty provision of this Part for any licensee or registrant when the licensee or registrant is found guilty of unprofessional, unethical or dishonest conduct. La. R.S. 37:846(A)(5).
2. "Dishonest conduct" is defined in La. R.S. 37:831(31) as a standard of personal behavior by a funeral director, or embalmer, or both, characterized by a willful distortion of the truth in an attempt to deceive, cheat or defraud.
3. "Unethical or unprofessional conduct" is defined in La. R.S. 37:831(85) as a standard of personal behavior by a funeral director, or embalmer, or both, or intern, or individual working under the authority of a temporary license not conforming to accepted, professional principles of the funeral service profession.
4. Whoever violates the provisions of the Board's rules shall be fined not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$2,500.00 for each offense plus costs of the court reporter and attorney for the Board, or by imprisonment for not less than 30 days nor more than 180 days for each offense, or both such fine and imprisonment. La. R.S. 37:850 (A).

#### **BOARD ORDER**

After considering the Admission and Consent, upon motion, the LSBEFD affirmed, by a majority vote of those present, the following Order:

**IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that the Board accept the Admission and Consent and impose a fine of \$2,500 per violation, for a total of \$5,000 in fines, plus attorneys' fees associated with Complaint No. 23.24.0030.

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**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that the fines and fees assessed in this Order shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that **DARLENE ST. ROMAINE, IN HER CAPACITY AS OWNER AND DESIGNATED AGENT OF THE ENTITY OPERATING AS ST. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME, and THE ENTITY OPERATING AS ST. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME (Establishment #2933)** shall reimburse the Board for the following attorneys' fees associated with Complaint No. 23.24.0030 from, June 12, 2024, the date the matter was accepted by the Board through the date of this Order as follows:

- General Counsel, Carrie L. Jones in the amount \$1,140.00; and
- Prosecuting Attorney, Chanel Robinson Debose, in the amount \$10,727.03.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that the total fines and attorneys' fees assessed is \$15,727.03. Said fines and attorneys' fees shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

BY ORDER OF THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF  
EMBALMERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS

  
Executive Director

Metairie, Louisiana

*Decision rendered on August 7, 2025, and memorialized in writing on December 19, 2025*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

On December 22, 2025, I served a true copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Final Board Order on Darlene St. Romaine, in her individual capacity and as Registered Agent and owner of the entity operating as St. Edwards Funeral Home, Bunkie, Louisiana:

**St. Edwards Funeral Home, LLC**  
**Attn: Darlene St. Romaine**  
808 NW Main Street  
Bunkie, Louisiana 71322  
*Via priority mail*

  
Kim Michel, LSBEFD Executive Director

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