

Press Release

Nova Scotia Board of Registration of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

December 9, 2019

The Nova Scotia Board of Registration of Embalmers and Funeral Directors released its decision today, Monday, December 9, regarding the funeral director licence of Jillian Nemis, Sydney NS. The Board has revoked Ms. Nemis' funeral director licence effective immediately. This means Ms. Nemis will no longer be permitted to conduct business as a funeral director. She is a previous employee of Chant's Funeral Home, Sydney.

On November 12 and 13, 2019, the Board held an inquiry into professional misconduct of Ms. Nemis in response to complaints. The inquiry addressed allegations of misconduct and non-compliance with the Embalmers and Funeral Directors Act. The Board found that the actions of Ms. Nemis demonstrate that she is guilty of non-compliance with the Act, misrepresentation, fraud and professional misconduct in relation to her role in the re-use of funeral caskets and by providing funeral director services for an unlicensed funeral home

"I think it's safe to say that I speak on behalf of all board members and the funeral profession when I say that I am absolutely shocked and disappointed by the choices made by this funeral director and the funeral home particularly when you consider their position of trust with families," said Board Chair Adam Tipert. "Following a two-day hearing with sufficient evidence presented, the funeral director's license has been revoked effective immediately."

The board's decision also included the following recommendations for change to funeral legislation:

- Allow the board to immediately suspend a funeral director's license before a hearing when the actions of that funeral director put the public at risk
- Remove the ability for funeral homes to receive funds held in trust for pre-arranged funerals and allow pre-arranged funerals to only be funded through insurance.
- Allow the Board greater authority to immediately terminate the apprentice/mentor agreement between an apprentice and a funeral director if the board believes the apprentice is not receiving proper instruction and guidance.

The Nova Scotia Board of Registration of Embalmers and Funeral Directors is responsible for licensing and regulating funeral directors and embalmers. This includes disciplinary action relating to professional misconduct. The Department of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services is responsible for licensing funeral homes and crematoriums.

"We are pleased with the province's response to our recommendations and understand they will review them to determine how best to proceed," said Mr. Tipert.

The hearing was the first time for the board's two new consumer representatives to participate.

The Board's decision can be found at http://nsbrefd.com/NSBREFD_Decisions_1524548.html .

Adam Tipert will be available to speak to media at 1:00 pm, December 9, 2019, at 620 Nine Mile Drive, Suite 203, Bedford, Nova Scotia.

Media Contact: Kortney Adams
 kortneyadams@nsbrefd.com
 902-407-6001