

Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

Aiding and Abetting Unlicensed Practice

Virginia Code § 54.1-2806(10) prohibits licensees of the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers (“Board”) from “[a]iding or abetting an unlicensed person to practice within the funeral service profession[.]” All licensees of the Board are responsible for adhering to the laws and regulations governing the funeral service profession in Virginia.

If a licensee of the Board contracts to provide funeral services of any kind with another funeral director, funeral home, or entity providing funeral services, where the other contracting party is not licensed to practice within the funeral service profession, the licensee of the Board is in violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-2806(10) and may face disciplinary action. Specifically, the contracting party must be licensed in the state in which arrangements are or will be made.

Before entering into a business arrangement with another funeral director, funeral home, or entity providing funeral services, the Board recommends that Virginia licensed funeral service professionals verify the licensure status of the other party in the state in which arrangements are or will be made. Virginia licenses can be verified through the Department of Health Professions’ license look-up feature, available at www.dhp.virginia.gov. Many other states have online license verification for funeral service professionals as well. As an alternative, a licensee may request that a potential contracting party provide the licensee with a copy of the contracting party’s valid license.

The burden of ensuring that a licensee is compliant with the laws and regulations governing the practice of funeral services in Virginia rests solely with the licensee. Therefore, the Board recommends that licensees verify the licensure status of all parties with which they contract to provide funeral services.