

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

June 25, 2024

*Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201
Henrico, VA*

- CALL TO ORDER:** A Special Conference Committee of the Board was called to order at 10:02 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** S. Jonathan Hines, FSL, Chair
R. Thomas Slusser, FSL
- STAFF PRESENT:** Melanie Pagano, Deputy Executive Director
Annette Kelley, Deputy Executive Director
Christine Corey, Adjudication Specialist
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Diane Caldwell
Hermina Luongo
- MATTER:** **Andrew Vincent Bell, FSL**
License No.: 0502-900360
Case Nos.: 225412, 232606
- DISCUSSION:** Mr. Bell appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with the Board's Notice of Informal Conference dated May 7, 2024. Mr. Bell was not represented by counsel.
- The Committee fully discussed the allegations in the Notice with Mr. Bell.
- CLOSED SESSION:** Upon a motion by Mr. Slusser and duly seconded by Mr. Hines, the Committee voted to convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711.A (27) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Andrew Vincent Bell, FSL. Additionally, Mr. Slusser moved that Ms. Pagano and Ms. Kelley attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations.
- RECONVENE:** Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, the Committee re-convened in open session and announced its decision.
- DECISION:** Upon a motion by Mr. Slusser and duly seconded by Mr. Hines, the Committee made certain findings of fact and

conclusions of law and voted to issue Mr. Bell a reprimand and require completion of continuing education.

ADJOURNMENT: The Committee adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

As provided by law this decision shall become a Final Order thirty (30) days after service of such Order on Mr. Bell unless a written request to the Board for a formal hearing on the allegations made against him is received from Mr. Bell within such time. If service of the Order is made by mail three (3) additional days shall be added to that period. Upon such timely request for a formal hearing, the decision of the Special Conference Committee shall be vacated.

MATTER: **Fenton Lee Bland, Jr., FSL**
License No.: 0502-860051
Case No.: 234156

CALL TO ORDER: A Special Conference Committee of the Board was called to order at 11:08 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: S. Jonathan Hines, FSL, Chair
R. Thomas Slusser, FSL

DHP STAFF PRESENT: Melanie Pagano, Deputy Executive Director
Annette Kelley, Deputy Executive Director
Emily Tatum, Senior Adjudication Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT: Kiplin Jordan
Terone Green

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bland appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with the Board's Notice of Informal Conference dated May 20, 2024. Mr. Bland was represented by Charles H. Cuthbert, Jr., Esquire.

The Committee fully discussed the allegations in the Notice with Mr. Bland.

CLOSED SESSION: Upon a motion by Mr. Slusser and duly seconded by Mr. Hines, the Committee voted to convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711.A (27) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Fenton Lee Bland, Jr., FSL. Additionally, Mr. Slusser moved that Ms. Pagano and Ms. Kelley attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations.

RECONVENE: Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, the Committee re-convened in open session and announced its decision.

DECISION:

Upon a motion by Mr. Slusser and duly seconded by Mr. Hines, the Committee made certain findings of fact and conclusions of law and voted to return Mr. Bland's license to full and unrestricted status.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Committee adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

As provided by law this decision shall become a Final Order thirty (30) days after service of such Order on Mr. Bland unless a written request to the Board for a formal hearing on the allegations made against him is received from Mr. Bland within such time. If service of the Order is made by mail three (3) additional days shall be added to that period. Upon such timely request for a formal hearing, the decision of the Special Conference Committee shall be vacated.



Deputy Executive Director

July 2, 2024

Date