

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS BRANCH**

In re: Dalton Zahner, Embalmer

Petition No. 2005-0412-030-007

**CONSENT ORDER**

WHEREAS, Dalton Zahner of Ellington (hereinafter "respondent") has been issued license number 002586 to practice as an Embalmer by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") pursuant to Chapter 385 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, the Department alleges that:

1. At all relevant times, respondent was employed as an embalmer for Newkirk & Whitney Funeral Home in East Hartford.
2. On or about March 20, 2005, respondent met with family members of the deceased J.F.
3. Respondent attempted to sell the family a package that was not wanted by the family and cost approximately \$1000.00 more than the individual items that were requested.
4. Respondent did not allow family members to view the body of the deceased J.F. until the day of the funeral.
5. The above-described facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, including, but not limited to:
  - a. §20-227(2);
  - b. §20-227(4); and/or
  - c. §20-227(5).

WHEREAS, respondent has chosen not to contest the above allegations of wrongdoing but, while admitting no guilt or wrongdoing, agrees that for purposes of this or any future

proceedings before the Board of Examiners of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (hereinafter "the Board"), this Consent Order shall have the same effect as if proven and ordered after a full hearing held pursuant to §§19a-10, 19a-14 and 20-227 of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to §§19a-14, 19a-17 and 20-227 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, respondent hereby stipulates and agrees to the following:

1. Respondent waives his right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
2. Respondent's license number 002586 to practice as an embalmer in the State of Connecticut is hereby reprimanded.
3. Respondent shall at all times be current in meeting the statutory requirements for continuing education credits, and shall maintain evidence of such coursework at the funeral home facility at which he is employed.
4. Respondent shall comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations applicable to his licensure.
5. Respondent shall pay all costs necessary to comply with this Consent Order.
6. Any alleged violation of any provision of this Consent Order may result in the following procedures at the discretion of the Department:
  - a. The Department shall notify respondent in writing by first-class mail that the term(s) of this Consent Order have been violated, provided that no prior written consent for deviation from said term(s) has been granted.
  - b. Said notification shall include the acts or omission(s) which violate the term(s) of this Consent Order.
  - c. Respondent shall be allowed fifteen (15) days from the date of the mailing of notification required in paragraph 6.a. above to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the

Department that he has complied with the terms of this Consent Order or, in the alternative, that he has cured the violation in question.

- d. If respondent does not demonstrate compliance or cure the violation within the fifteen (15) days specified in the notification of violation to the satisfaction of the Department, he shall be entitled to a hearing before the Board, which shall make a final determination of the disciplinary action to be taken.
  - e. Evidence presented to the Board by either the Department or respondent in any such hearing shall be limited to the alleged violation(s) of the term(s) of this Consent Order.
7. In the event respondent violates any term of this Consent Order, respondent agrees immediately to refrain from practicing as an embalmer, upon request by the Department, with notice to the Board, for a period not to exceed 45 days. During that time period, respondent further agrees to cooperate with the Department in its investigation of the violation, and, that the results of the evaluation shall be submitted directly to the Department. Respondent further agrees that failure to cooperate with the Department in its investigation during said 45-day period shall constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license. In any such summary action, respondent stipulates that failure to cooperate with the Department's investigation shall constitute an admission that his conduct constitutes a clear and immediate danger as required pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, sections 4-182(c) and 19a-17(c).
8. In the event respondent violates any term of this Consent Order, said violation may also constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of his license before the Board.

9. Legal notice shall be sufficient if sent to respondent's last known address of record reported to the Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section of the Healthcare Systems Branch of the Department.
10. This Consent Order is effective on the first day of the month immediately following the date this Consent Order is accepted and ordered by the Board.
11. Respondent agrees that this Consent Order shall be deemed a public document, and the Department's allegations as contained in this Consent Order shall be deemed true in any subsequent proceeding before the Board in which his compliance with this Consent Order or with §20-227 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, is at issue.
12. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review under any form or in any forum. Further, this Order is not subject to appeal or review under the provisions of Chapters 54 or 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, provided that this stipulation shall not deprive respondent of any rights that he may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.
13. This Consent Order is a revocable offer of settlement which may be modified by mutual agreement or withdrawn by the Department at any time prior to its being executed by the last signatory.
14. Respondent permits a representative of the Legal Office of the Healthcare Systems Branch to present this Consent Order and the factual basis for this Consent Order to the Board. Respondent understands that the Board has complete and final discretion as to whether this executed Consent Order is approved or accepted.
15. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to signing this document.
16. The execution of this document has no bearing on any criminal liability without the written consent of the Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit or the Bureau Chief of the Division of Criminal Justice's Statewide Prosecution Bureau.

I, Dalton Zahner, have read the above Consent Order, and I stipulate and agree to the terms as set forth therein. I further declare the execution of this Consent Order to be my free act and deed.

*Dalton Zahner*  
Dalton Zahner, Embalmer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8<sup>TH</sup> day of JANUARY 2007.

*Richard Burt* MY COMMISSIONS EXPIRES 3/31/08  
Notary Public or person authorized  
by law to administer an oath or affirmation

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2007, it is hereby accepted.

*Jennifer Filippone*  
Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief  
Practitioner Licensing and Investigations  
Healthcare Systems Branch

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Board of Examiners of Embalmers and Funeral Directors on the 11 day of January 2007, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

*Celia Ann*  
Board of Examiners of Embalmers and Funeral Directors