

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

In re: Smith-Ruzzo Funeral Home

Petition No. 2010-5001

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Smith Ruzzo Funeral Home, Inc. of Meriden (hereinafter "respondent") has been issued inspection certificate number 000367 to operate as a funeral home by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") pursuant to Chapter 385 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, respondent admits that:

1. Ronald Stempien, owner of Smith-Ruzzo Funeral Home, Inc., failed to submit the required change of ownership application forms to the Department when he purchased the funeral home from Robert Ruzzo on October 1, 2003.
2. The above-described facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, including, but not limited to:
 - a. §20-22 (2);
 - b. §20-22 (5); and/or
 - c. §20-22 .

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, has chosen not to contest this matter and 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 its right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
2. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) by certified or cashier's check payable to "Treasurer, State of Connecticut." The check shall reference the Petition Number on the face of the check, and shall be payable at the time respondent submits the executed Consent Order to the Department.
3. Respondent shall comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations applicable to its licensure.
4. Respondent shall pay all costs necessary to comply with this Consent Order.
5. 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 Quality and Safety Branch of the Department.
6. 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.
7. Respondent understands this Consent Order shall be deemed as a public document and evidence of the above admitted violations in any proceeding before the Board in which its compliance with this Consent Order or with §20-227 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, is at issue.
8. 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. Respondent understands that this Consent Order shall not be subject to modification as a result of any claim that the terms contained herein may result in action by third parties, including, but not limited to, healthcare facilities and/or credentialing or licensure boards. Respondent assumes all responsibility for assessing such actions prior to the execution of this document. 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 it may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.

9. 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.
10. Respondent permits a representative of the Legal Office of the Healthcare Quality and Safety 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.
11. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to signing this document.
12. 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. The purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve the pending administrative license disciplinary petition only, and is not intended to affect any civil or criminal liability or defense.
13. This Consent Order embodies the entire agreement of the parties with respect to this case. All previous communications or agreements regarding the subject matter of this consent order, whether oral or written, between the parties are superseded unless expressly incorporated herein or made a part hereof.

I, Ronald J. Stempien, affirm that I am fully authorized and empowered to bind respondent. I 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.

Ronald J. Stempien
Ronald J. Stempien

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of July 2012.

Gail Skolowski
Notary Public or person authorized Gail Skolowski
by law to administer an oath or affirmation
my commission expires: 11/31/2014

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the 16th day of July 2012, it is hereby accepted.

Wendy H. Furniss Wendy H. Furniss
~~Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief~~
~~Practitioner Licensing and Investigations~~
Healthcare Quality and Safety 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 4th day of December 2012, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

Samuel P. Gowdy
Board of Examiners of Embalmers and Funeral Directors