

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 9:51:37 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 9:34 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS FUNERAL SERVICE COMMISSION TFSC

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Hurst

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Alvarado

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

My name is Mary Hurst. My daughter and I have worked with Senator Brian Birdwell last legislative session regarding making abuse of a corpse a felony. The bill, SB524 was made into law which we are very happy about. After our own horrific experience in another state it was brought to our attention that horrific acts were happening in our own state. Specially in our own area with Johnson Brothers Mortuary.

We started talking to different people in the funeral industry about how something like Johnson Brothers could even happen. After all, inspections were done by the state, right?

Some things were as simple as just wording.

State requires an embalming machine but it does not state "working"

embalming machine. In the case of the Johnson Brothers they did not have a properly "working" one which is likely why at least one of the deceased was heavily leaking from multiple places on her body during visitation.

We are hoping those in charge will take a good look at all the wording in the regulations as they stand now and make sure wording is specific. It could make a difference in a slap on the wrist for funeral homes that get dismissed or heavier penalties that will make owners want to resolve any issues.

Stricter license requirements may also be needed for those in the funeral industry. Owners, operators, funeral directors and anyone else who manages funeral industry related should be required to have the proper education and licensing. We have to entrust these people with the bodies of our loved ones.

We need to know that they are knowledgeable and licensed in the industry.

Again.. there were issues with this regarding Johnson Brothers.

Funeral homes are not required to have refrigeration for bodies. A widow unit in a room is not good enough. We understand that there are small towns where the local doctors office may serve as a mortuary and may only have a body every now and then. It's not reasonable to think they can go through the expense of having a refrigerated unit to store the deceased. However when a funeral home is a free standing structure and used for the sole purpose of such business they should be required to have a refrigerated unit to store bodies.

I know I keep bringing up Johnson Brothers but many mistakes were made just in that business alone. lol back at the

times they were given nothing more than a slap on the wrist. That allowed them to get away with too much and look at the end result. If it were your loved one you would not think twice about making changes. Here is the thing. Next time it could be your loved one.

How was it possible for the Johnson Brothers to work at other funeral homes after what they did? It's another area that needs to be looked at. People like that should never be allowed to work in the industry again!!

We entrust those in the funeral industry with our loved ones. It's the job of lawmakers and commissions to ensure those holding those positions are credible and the standard of care is met. There had to be more oversight.

There has to be more inspections and stiffer penalties for those that do not follow the rules or take advantage of areas in the wording allowing them to get away with not following proper rules.

We understand sometimes there are small, unintentional infractions. It happens. It's when there are constant infractions that should cause red flags and need to be dealt with by the state.

Thankfully there are many in the funeral industry that are respectable and are amazing at what they do. They follow the laws and rules. They don't look for "loopholes" to be able to lessen the quality of care they provide to save a few bucks.

The state has to find a way to weed out those that are not and that do look for ways to cheat the system currently in place.

Thank you for your time and we hope those that are responsible for doing so will take a long look at the rules and regulations as they stand and re word what is needed to close any loopholes that are open.

Mary Hurst

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

My name is Mary Hurst. My daughter and I have worked with Senator Brian Birdwell last legislative session regarding making abuse of a corpse a felony. The bill, SB524 was made into law which we are very happy about. After our own horrific experience in another state it was brought to our attention that horrific acts were happening in our own state. Specially in our own area with Johnson Brothers Mortuary.

We started talking to different people in the funeral industry about how something like Johnson Brothers could even happen. After all, inspections were done by the state, right?

Some things were as simple as just wording.

State requires an embalming machine but it does not state "working"

embalming machine. In the case of the Johnson Brothers they did not have a properly "working" one which is likely why at least one of the deceased was heavily leaking from multiple places on her body during visitation.

We are hoping those in charge will take a good look at all the wording in the regulations as they stand now and make sure wording is specific. It could make a difference in a slap on the wrist for funeral homes that get dismissed or heavier penalties that will make owners want to resolve any issues.

Stricter license requirements may also be needed for those in the funeral industry. Owners, operators, funeral directors and anyone else who manages funeral industry related should be required to have the proper education and licensing. We have to entrust these people with the bodies of our loved ones.

We need to know that they are knowledgeable and licensed in the industry.

Again.. there were issues with this regarding Johnson Brothers.

Funeral homes are not required to have refrigeration for bodies. A widow unit in a room is not good enough. We understand that there are small towns where the local doctors office may serve as a mortuary and may only have a body every now and then. It's not reasonable to think they can go through the expense of having a refrigerated unit to store the deceased. However when a funeral home is a free standing structure and used for the sole purpose of such business they should be required to have a refrigerated unit to store bodies.

I know I keep bringing up Johnson Brothers but many mistakes were made just in that business alone. lol back at the times they were given nothing more than a slap on the wrist. That allowed them to get away with too much and look at the end result. If it were your loved one you would not think twice about making changes. Here is the thing. Next time it could be your loved one.

How was it possible for the Johnson Brothers to work at other funeral homes after what they did? It's another area that needs to be looked at. People like that should never be allowed to work in the industry again!!

We entrust those in the funeral industry with our loved ones. It's the job of lawmakers and commissions to ensure those holding those positions are credible and the standard of care is met. There had to be more oversight.

There has to be more inspections and stiffer penalties for those that do not follow the rules or take advantage of areas in the wording allowing them to get away with not following proper rules.

We understand sometimes there are small, unintentional infractions. It happens. It's when there are constant infractions that should cause red flags and need to be dealt with by the state.

Thankfully there are many in the funeral industry that are respectable and are amazing at what they do. They follow the laws and rules. They don't look for "loopholes" to be able to lessen the quality of care they provide to save a few bucks.

The state has to find a way to weed out those that are not and that do look for ways to cheat the system currently in place.

Thank you for your time and we hope those that are responsible for doing so will take a long look at the rules and regulations as they stand and re word what is needed to close any loopholes that are open.

Mary Hurst

My name is Mary Hurst. My daughter and I have worked with Senator Brian Birdwell last legislative session regarding making abuse of a corpse a felony. The bill, SB524 was made into law which we are very happy about. After our own horrific experience in another state it was brought to our attention that horrific acts were happening in our own state. Specially in our own area with Johnson Brothers Mortuary.

We started talking to different people in the funeral industry about how something like Johnson Brothers could even happen. After all, inspections were done by the state, right?

Some things were as simple as just wording.

State requires an embalming machine but it does not state "working" embalming machine. In the case of the Johnson Brothers they did not have a properly "working" one which is likely why at least one of the deceased was heavily leaking from multiple places on her body during visitation.

We are hoping those in charge will take a good look at all the wording in the regulations as they stand now and make sure wording is specific. It could make a difference in a slap on the wrist for funeral homes that get dismissed or heavier penalties that will make owners want to resolve any issues.

Stricter license requirements may also be needed for those in the funeral industry. Owners, operators, funeral directors and anyone else who manages funeral industry related should be required to have the proper education and licensing. We have to entrust these people with the bodies of our loved ones.

We need to know that they are knowledgeable and licensed in the industry.

Again.. there were issues with this regarding Johnson Brothers.

Funeral homes are not required to have refrigeration for bodies. A widow unit in a room is not good enough. We understand that there are small towns where the local doctors office may serve as a mortuary and may only have a body every now and then. It's not reasonable to think they can go through the expense of having a refrigerated unit to store the deceased. However when a funeral home is a free standing structure and used for the sole purpose of such business they should be required to have a refrigerated unit to store bodies.

I know I keep bringing up Johnson Brothers but many mistakes were made just in that business alone. lol back at the times they were given nothing more then a slap on the wrist. That allowed them to get away with too much and look at the end result. If it were your loved one you would not think twice about making changes. Here is the thing. Next time it could be your loved one.

How was it possible for the Johnson Brothers to work at other funeral homes after what they did? It's another area that needs to be looked at. People like that should never be allowed to work in the industry again!!

We entrust those in the funeral industry with our loved ones. It's the job of lawmakers and commissions to ensure those holding those positions are credible and the standard of care is met. There had to be more oversight.

There has to be more inspections and stiffer penalties for those that do not follow the rules or take advantage of areas in the wording allowing them to get away with not following proper rules.

We understand sometimes there are small, unintentional infractions. It happens. It's when there are constant infractions that should cause red flags and need to be dealt with by the state.

Thankfully there are many in the funeral industry that are respectable and are amazing at what they do. They follow the laws and rules. They don't look for "loopholes" to be able to lessen the quality of care they provide to save a few bucks.

The state has to find a way to weed out those that are not and that do look for ways to cheat the system currently in place.

Thank you for your time and we hope those that are responsible for doing so will take a long look at the rules and regulations as they stand and re word what is needed to close any loopholes that are open.

Mary Hurst

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree