

**BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER  
FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS**

**ARKANSAS INSURANCE DEPARTMENT,** )  
**Petitioner** )  
 )  
**vs.** )  
 )  
**HIGGINBOTHAM FUNERAL** )  
**SERVICES, INC.,** )  
**Respondent** )

**A.I.D. NO. 2012- 448**

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**ORDER TO CLOSE RECORD**

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On this day, the matter of Higginbotham Funeral Services, Inc. (“Respondent”) came before Lenita Blasingame, Chief Deputy Commissioner and Hearing Officer (“Hearing Officer”), pursuant to her appointment by the Commissioner in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 23-61-103. A hearing was held at 1:00 p.m. on March 13, 2012 in the Hearing Room of the Arkansas Insurance Department (“Department”) pursuant to a Notice of Hearing dated February 8, 2012. The Department was represented by Amanda J. Andrews, Associate Counsel, and Respondent did not appear.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Hearing Officer ruled that the record would remain open until the sale and transfer of ownership of Higginbotham Funeral Services, Inc. was completed. The sale is now complete, and Commissioner Jay Bradford approved the transfer of ownership. Counsel for the Department prepared additional exhibits, to which Respondent has no objection. The proposed exhibits are described as follows:

- a) Copy of Bill of Sale signed by Mary Jo Higginbotham and notarized, Purchase Agreement signed by Mary Jo Higginbotham and Clell Cox, two (2) Ownership Change Forms of the Arkansas State Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors signed

by Mary Jo Higginbotham and notarized, and a Loan Disbursement check, number 47716, in the amount of \$100,000.00 to Mary Jo Higginbotham from Clell Cox. (Exhibit 23)

- b) Copy of Report of Examination of Higginbotham Funeral Service, Inc. and two (2) deposit slips from Regions Bank for the accounts of Higginbotham Funeral Service, Inc. (Exhibit 24)
- c) Copy of Change of Ownership of Prepaid Funeral Benefits Contracts authorized by Commissioner Jay Bradford on May 8, 2012. (Exhibit 25)
- d) Correspondence from the Department to Dr. Robert Higginbotham and Judy Brown and Ann Dienst of P&G Services, LLC, the court appointed co-guardians of Mary Jo Higginbotham, providing additional exhibits to be included in the record, and the response of each approving the additional exhibits. (Exhibit 26)

THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that the foregoing exhibits, numbers 23 – 26, be admitted into the record, and that the record of the hearing in the matter of Higginbotham Funeral Services, Inc.'s pre-paid funeral license be closed.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF June, 2012.

  
LENITA BLASINGAME  
CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER and  
HEARING OFFICER