

**BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF EMBALMERS, FUNERAL DIRECTORS,
CEMETERIES, AND BURIAL SERVICES**

**IN THE MATTER OF
Vickie Blake, Registered Funeral Director Apprentice
And Applicant for Apprentice
Embalmer, Board ID #24783, Respondent**

Case No. 19-05

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

A hearing on the above-referenced matter was held before the Arkansas State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services (the "Board") on July 16, 2019, at the Arkansas Insurance Department, First Floor Hearing Room, 1200 W. 3rd St., Little Rock. The Respondent, Vickie Blake, appeared. Amanda Gibson, Associate Counsel at the Arkansas Insurance Department appeared on behalf of the Board. Finding proper notice was given to the Respondent, the Board, from all the evidence presented, issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is currently employed at Mountain View Funeral Service in Mountain View, AR.
2. Respondent is currently registered with the Board as an Apprentice Funeral Director.
3. On January 18, 2019, Respondent submitted an application for registration as an Apprentice Embalmer.
4. Included with Respondent's application was a letter disclosing the existence of a prior felony conviction. The conviction was entered in 2009 as a result of Respondent's guilty plea to charges involving the fraudulent use of a credit card.

5. Respondent has been a registered Funeral Director Apprentice since 2017.
6. Respondent was untruthful in 2016 on her application for Apprentice Funeral Director in that she stated under oath that she had never been convicted of a felony.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. Respondent's actions, as set forth in the Allegations 4 and 6 above, constitute a violation of Ark. Code Ann. § 17-29-301(a)(8)(A) in that Respondent cannot pass the State Police criminal background check required of Apprentice Embalmers because of her felony conviction.

ORDER

Based upon the testimony and evidence presented at the hearing, specifically the misrepresentation made on Respondent's prior application for registration as an Apprentice Funeral Director, the Board hereby orders that Respondent's application to register as an Apprentice Embalmer is **DENIED**.

Respondent may not apply again for registration as an Apprentice Embalmer until at least two years from July 16, 2019.

No adverse action is taken against Respondent's Apprentice Funeral Director registration.

Pursuant to the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-212, the Respondent may petition for judicial review of this decision by filing a petition in the Circuit Court of the county in which she resides or does business, or in the Circuit Court of Pulaski County, within thirty (30) days after service of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 16TH DAY OF JULY, 2019.

**STATE BOARD OF EMBALMERS,
FUNERAL DIRECTORS,
CEMETERIES, AND BURIAL
SERVICES**

By:



Amanda Gibson
Counsel for the Board