

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

**IN THE MATTER OF
Rochelle M. Hardin, Board ID No. 24509,
An Expired Apprentice Funeral Director,
Respondent**

Case No. 17-40

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 ("Board") on October 30, 2018 at the Arkansas Insurance Department, First Floor Hearing Room, 1200 W. 3rd St., Little Rock. Rochelle Hardin, the Respondent, failed to appear. Amanda Gibson, Associate Counsel at the Arkansas Insurance Department appeared on behalf of the Board. Finding proper notice had been given to the Respondent, the Board, from all the evidence presented, makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent's funeral director apprenticeship expired on March 4, 2018. Respondent was an apprentice at Branscumb, Johnson, & Gilchrest Funeral Home. Respondent was so registered at all times relevant hereto.

2. Respondent began her apprenticeship on March 4, 2015, with Branscumb, Johnson, & Gilchrest Funeral Home. Respondent was serving her apprenticeship under the license supervision of C.J. Williams, Chancellor Tucker, and Carolyn Gilchrest.

3. On June 20, 2017, the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (“former Board”) received a complaint from former Board Inspector Tammy Leakey against Respondent alleging that she falsified numerous case reports. A total of twelve (12) false cases were submitted.

4. Case reports must be filed in the Board Inspector’s office by the 10th of the month following the month in which work was actually performed. Respondent submitted seven (7) case reports on June 7, 2017, for the month of May 2017, regarding the following decedents:

a. Garfield Webbs, whose actual date of death was February 21, 2017. Respondent submitted the case report as though the service and death occurred in May of 2017.

b. Dashon Tucker, whose actual date of death was March 28, 2017. Respondent submitted the case report as though the service and death occurred in May of 2017.

c. Robert Tucker, Sr., whose actual date of death was March 22, 2017. Respondent submitted the case report as though the service and death occurred in May of 2017.

d. Mildred Doss, whose actual date of death was April 14, 2017. Respondent submitted the case report as though the service and death occurred in May of 2017.

e. Delois Allen, whose actual date of death was April 13, 2017. Respondent submitted the case report as though the service and death occurred in May of 2017.

f. Betty Hobbs, whose actual date of death was April 21, 2017. Respondent submitted the case report as though the service and death occurred in May of 2017.

g. George Clay, whose actual date of death was April 12, 2017. Respondent submitted the case report as though the service and death occurred in May of 2017.

5. Respondent submitted two (2) case reports on March 10, 2016, for the month of February 2016, regarding the following decedents:

a. Glenn Palmer, whose actual date of death was December 27, 2015. Respondent submitted the case report as though the service and death occurred in February of 2016. Additionally, Branscumb, Johnson, & Gilchrest Funeral Home did not perform the service for this decedent; rather, another funeral home performed the services.

b. Billie J. Allen, whose actual date of death was January 21, 2016. Respondent submitted the case report as though the service and death occurred in February of 2016.

6. Respondent submitted three (3) case reports on December 1, 2015, for the month of November 2015, regarding the following decedents:

a. Ethel Davis, whose actual date of death was August 4, 2015. Respondent submitted the case report as though the service and death occurred in November of 2015.

b. Queen E. Jones, whose actual date of death was October 1, 2015. Respondent submitted the case report as though the service and death occurred in November of 2015.

c. Evelyn Gibbs, whose actual date of death was October 2, 2015. Respondent submitted the case report as though the service and death occurred in November of 2015.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent's actions, as set forth in Findings of Fact 3 through 6 above, constitute a violation of Ark. Code Ann. §§ 17-29-302(b)(1)(A)(iii) and (iv), and 17-29-311(a)(2) and (9), in that Respondent untimely submitted false case reports in a fraudulent attempt to complete her apprenticeship.

2. Respondent's actions, as set forth in Findings of Fact 3 through 6 above, constitute a violation of Board Rule V.3, in that she did not submit her case reports to the Board Inspector by the 10th of the month following the month in which the work was actually performed.

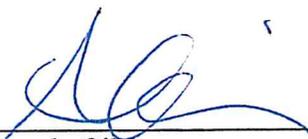
ORDER

Based upon the testimony and evidence presented at the hearing, the Board hereby orders that Respondent Rochelle M. Hardin's apprentice funeral director certificate is revoked.

Pursuant to the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-212, 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 1ST DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2018.

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



Amanda Gibson
Counsel for the Board

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Amanda Gibson, Counsel for the Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services, do hereby certify that I have served a copy of these Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order by mailing a copy of same by Certified U.S. Mail, receipt number 7009 1680 0002 2607 8118, and by First Class Mail postage prepaid, on this 1st day of November, 2018, to:

Rochelle Hardin
511 W. Elm St.
Brinkley, AR 72021



Amanda Gibson