

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE FUNERAL DIRECTORS EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY :
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
SKINDINGSRUDE FUNERAL HOME, :
AND RUSSELL SKINDINGSRUDE : LS0605164FDR
RESPONDENTS. :

Division of Enforcement Investigative File # 03 FDR 011

The parties to this action for the purpose of Wis. Stats. sec. 227.53 are:

Skindingsrude Funeral Home
413 W. Main St.
Whitewater, WI 53190

Russell Skindingsrude
413 W. Main St.
Whitewater, WI 53190

Wisconsin Funeral Directors Examining Board
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708

Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Wisconsin Funeral Directors Examining Board (“Board”). The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Skindingsrude Funeral Home** is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a Funeral Establishment, license # 78 1347. This license was first granted to it on 1/02/69. The most recent address on file with the Department of Regulation and Licensing for this establishment is 413 W. Main St., Whitewater, WI 53190.
2. **Russell Skindingsrude** is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a Funeral Director, license # 77 3280. This license was first granted to him on 04/11/52. The most recent address on file with the Department of Regulation and Licensing for Mr. Skindingsrude is 413 W. Main St., Whitewater, WI 53190. Mr. Skindingsrude is listed with the Department of Regulation and Licensing as co-owner of Skindingsrude Funeral Home.

3. **Robert Skindingsrude** (deceased) was licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a Funeral Director, license # 77 3661. This license was first granted to him on 01/01/63 and expired on 12/31/03. At all times relative to the facts stated below, Robert Skindingsrude was co-owner of Skindingsrude Funeral Home.

4. On or about August 28, 2001, Robert Skindingsrude was arrested for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

5. Russell Skindingsrude admitted that he had knowledge of Robert's alcohol abuse due to Robert being arrested.

6. On February 27, 2003, Pastor Patricia Lyon observed Robert Skindingsrude performing funeral directors duties during a funeral while intoxicated. Pastor Lyon also observed Robert Skindingsrude driving the lead car in the funeral procession and stated that the car was swerving all over the road.

7. Pastor Lyon stated that on March 22, 2003, she observed Robert Skindingsrude displaying some of the same behavior as on February 27, 2003.

8. Russell alleges that he was not present at the funerals when Robert was intoxicated.

9. Robert Skindingsrude died on July 27, 2004, from complications as a result of alcohol abuse.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Funeral Directors Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to ch. 445, Wis. Stats.

2. The Wisconsin Funeral Directors Examining Board is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to sec. 227.44(5), Wis. Stats.

3. Respondents **Russell Skindingsrude** and **Skindingsrude Funeral Home** have violated:

a. Wis. Admin. Code FD 3.02(1) by permitting Robert Skindingsrude to practice as a funeral director after being made aware of his alcohol abuse.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the attached Stipulation is hereby accepted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Respondents **Russell Skindingsrude**, license # 77 3280, be, and hereby is, **REPRIMANDED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

1. Respondents shall, jointly and severally pay COSTS in the amount of \$500.00.

Payment shall be made by **certified check or money order**, payable to the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing and sent to:

Department Monitor
Division of Enforcement
Department of Regulation and Licensing
P.O. Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935
Telephone (608) 261-7904, Fax (608) 266-2264

2. Violation of any of the terms of this Order may be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Respondents' license. The Board in its discretion may in the alternative impose additional conditions and limitations or other additional discipline for a violation of any of the terms of this Order. In the event Respondents fail to timely submit any payment as ordered, then the Respondents' licenses SHALL BE SUSPENDED without further notice or hearing until Respondents have complied with the terms of this Order.

3. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

Dated this 16th day of May, 2006.

WISCONSIN FUNERAL DIRECTORS EXAMINING BOARD

By: J. C. Frazier
A member of the Board