



State of Idaho

Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses Idaho Board of Morticians

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Board Meeting Minutes of 04/07/2026

Board	Brian T. McBride, Chair	Division	Cesley Metcalfe, Executive Officer
Members	Charles Grunig, Vice Chair	Staff:	Gabriel Arroyo, General Counsel
Present:	Cathy Hart		Lizzie Kukla, Licensing Unit Supervisor
			Christian Runnalls, Board Support Specialist

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Brian McBride

Introductions

Cathy Hart was introduced as the new public member for the Board and Gabriel Arroyo was introduced as the new general counsel for the Board.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 07/31/2025 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

No Public comment was offered at this point. Public comment was sought again during discussions regarding definitive identification.

DIVISION BUSINESS

Respectful Workplace: The Board viewed a presentation on ensuring board meetings are a Respectful Workplace.

2026 DOPL Strategic Plan: Ms. Metcalfe provided an overview of the Division's updated strategic plan. Mr. McBride summarized his discussion with Russ Barron about the Board's relationship with the public.

Financial Update: Ms. Metcalfe presented the Board's financial report for the second quarter of FY2026, which indicated that the Board had a cash balance of (\$87,444.00) as of December 31, 2025.

2026 Legislative Session Overview: Ms. Metcalfe presented information on the following legislation:

- S1392 amends Idaho Code § 54-1143 to require a definitive identification before a cremation application is approved.
- S1326a requires owner approval prior to a government agent accessing private land that is not open to the public.
- S1391 is a trailer bill to S1326a that restores the ability for a publicly employed land surveyor to enter private land for surveying activities.
- H0856 strengthens Idaho's protections for graves and human remains by clarifying and expanding prohibited acts related to their disturbance, possession, sale, and display.
- S1250 exempts photographs or images of decedent individuals from public disclosure.

Ms. Metcalfe also presented information on H0703, H0787, H0935, and H0777.

BOARD BUSINESS

Definitive Identification: Ms. Metcalfe stated that S1392, a legislative amendment to Idaho Code § 54-1143, intending to prevent the cremation of unintended or improperly identified individuals by requiring definitive identification before a cremation application is approved, did not pass the Senate. Tony Valdez, of the Idaho Funeral Service Association (IFSA), stated that this bill arose from concerns expressed by coroners following a previous incident involving improper cremation. He stated he and the IFSA opposed the bill, stating it is outside of the scope of morticians and funeral directors. Mr. Valdez stated that the IFSA will continue to discuss and work with the coroners' association on legislation for next year.

Board Elections: A motion was made and seconded to elect Charles Grunig as the Board chair. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to elect Brian McBride as the Board vice chair. The motion carried unanimously.

Conference Updates and Reports: Mr. Grunig reported on the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards' Annual Meeting. He stated the topics discussed focused on the development and research of exams and discipline alternatives for licensees.

Licensing Report: Ms. Kukla presented the licensing report

Executive Session

A motion was made and seconded to enter executive session under Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure under the Idaho Public Records Law, Idaho Code § 74-106(9). The purpose of the executive session was to discuss documents relating to the fitness of a licensee to obtain a license or registration. The vote was: Mr. McBride, aye; Mr. Grunig, aye; and Ms. Hart, aye. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to exit executive session. The motion carried unanimously. No decisions were made in executive session.

Applications

A motion was made and seconded to approve application 1759699. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to deny application 1912947 for the reasons discussed by the Board and to authorize the Board chair to execute an order setting forth the bases for denial. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 PM.

The next meeting is on 10/14/2026.