

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Civil Division

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

Plaintiff,

v.

**AUSTIN ROYSTER FUNERAL HOME,
INC., *et al.***

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 2017 CA 007760B

Judge Michael Rankin

**ORDER GRANTING LIMITED SUSPENSION OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR ISSUING DEATH CERTIFICATES**

The District of Columbia (“District”) commenced this action against Defendants Austin Royster Funeral Home (“Austin Royster”), and its Chief Operating Officer Jamelle Royster (collectively, “Defendants”) under the Consumer Protection Procedures Act (“CPPA”), D.C. Code § 28-3901, *et seq.*, for injunctive relief, as well as the payment of restitution, costs and civil penalties. The District alleges that Defendants engaged in the deceptive offer and sale of funeral goods and services.

Before the Court is the District’s Consent Motion for Temporary, Limited, Suspension of the Requirements For Issuing Death Certificates.

WHEREFORE, it is this 9th day of JAN, 2019, hereby:

ORDERED, that the requirement under D.C. Code § 7-211(a) that the funeral director first taking custody of a dead body file a death certificate is suspended to enable death records that have not yet been filed by Defendants Austin Royster or James Agee, or were filed while Defendants Austin Royster or James Agee were unlicensed, or while one or both of their licenses were suspended, may be filed by either the Chief Medical Examiner or the Registrar of Vital

Records according to the following instructions:

1. Any unfiled death record for remains of a decedent who died in 2017 or earlier that has already been submitted to the Registrar by Austin Royster during a period in which Austin Royster was suspended or unlicensed shall have the funeral home field marked “not recorded”;


2. Any unfiled death record for remains of a decedent that were first taken into custody by Austin Royster, during a period in which Austin Royster was suspended or unlicensed, and are currently in the possession of the Chief Medical Examiner, shall have the funeral home field marked “not recorded” and shall have the medical certification portion of the record filled in as required by D.C. Code 7-211;

3. Any death record filed by Austin Royster, during a period when Austin Royster was suspended or unlicensed and for which the remains are in the possession of the Chief Medical Examiner, shall have the funeral home field marked “not recorded”;

4. Any other death records initiated by Austin Royster, for cremains for decedents in any other year during a period in which Austin Royster was suspended or unlicensed shall be filed by any person authorized by 29 DCMR § 2811; and

5. Any other filed record naming Austin Royster for which remains are in the possession of the Chief Medical Examiner shall retain Austin Royster in the funeral home field of the record until disposition fields are amended by the funeral home taking possession for final disposition.

SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED.



JUDGE MICHAEL RANKIN
Superior Court of the District of Columbia

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