

BEFORE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS,
DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES, OFFICE OF FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY
REGISTRATION

STATE OF COLORADO

Case No. 2023-7607

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS REGARDING THE FUNERAL
ESTABLISHMENT REGISTRATION IN THE STATE OF COLORADO OF **RETURN TO NATURE
FUNERAL HOME, FH.0000767**

TO: Return to Nature Funeral Home

The Director of the Division of Professions and Occupations, Department of Regulatory Agencies, Office of Funeral Home and Crematory Registration (“Director”), having reviewed and investigated all available information as to the matters referenced below, HEREBY FINDS:

1) Return to Nature Funeral Home (“Respondent”) was issued a registration to provide services as a funeral establishment in the state of Colorado on August 18, 2017, with registration number FH.0000767. Jon Hallford has been the registered designee of Respondent since February 16, 2021. The registration was active at all times relevant to this matter.

2) The Director has jurisdiction over Respondent, its registration to perform services as a funeral establishment, and the subject matter herein pursuant to the Mortuary Science Code, section 12-135-101, C.R.S., *et seq.*

3) The Director reviewed information as part of an investigation regarding Respondent. The information shows that:

- a) Respondent is located at 815 E. Platte Avenue in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- b) Respondent is owned and operated by Jon Hallford.
- c) On or about October 3, 2023, there was a report of an abhorrent smell emanating from a property at 31 Werner Road, in Penrose, Colorado (“Penrose property”).
- d) The Penrose property had been registered as a funeral establishment (registration number FH.0000783), with Jon Hallford as its designee, until November 30, 2022. The funeral establishment at the Penrose

property had been doing business as Return to Nature Funeral Home.

- e) On October 4, 2023, Zen Mayhugh, Program Director of the Office Funeral Home and Crematory Registration, spoke on the telephone with Mr. Hallford. Mr. Hallford: (1) admitted to owning the Penrose property; (2) acknowledged that he has a “problem” at the Penrose property; and (3) claimed that he practices taxidermy at the Penrose property. Mr. Hallford was amenable to meeting at the Penrose property later in the day to facilitate an inspection.
- f) On October 4, 2023, law enforcement executed a search warrant at the Penrose property and determined that human remains were improperly stored inside.
- g) Jon Hallford attempted to conceal the improper storage of human remains at the Penrose property.
- h) The human remains improperly stored at the Penrose property may be decedent family members of Respondent’s clients.
- i) Respondent failed to permit access to an investigator for inspection on October 5, 2023, as required by section 12-135-401(3), C.R.S.

4) Based on the information obtained in the Director’s investigation, objective and reasonable grounds exist to believe, and the Director so finds, that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action and/or Respondent is guilty of deliberate and willful violations of the Mortuary Science Code, codified at Article 135 of Title 12, C.R.S.

5) Nothing in this Order shall prohibit the Director from alleging additional facts, conduct, information, etc., related to the course of conduct at issue, and which may constitute a violation of the Mortuary Science Code, in the subsequent complaint commencing adjudicatory proceedings (the Notice of Charges) in case number 2023-7607.

6) This Order will be a public record in the custody of the Director.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the registration to practice as a funeral establishment in the state of Colorado of Return to Nature Funeral Home, FH.0000767, is **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED** pursuant to section 24-4-104(4), C.R.S., pending proceedings to determine whether Respondent’s registration to practice as a funeral establishment should be further disciplined in accordance with section 12-135-401, C.R.S. Such proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined.

Pending the outcome of said proceedings, **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Return to Nature Funeral Home immediately cease, desist, and refrain from any further acts or activities for which a registration to practice as a funeral establishment is required by the laws of the state of Colorado.

DATED and SIGNED this 5th day of October, 2023.

On behalf of the Office of Funeral Home and Crematory Registration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Zen Mayhugh", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Zen Mayhugh
Program Director