



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

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Phone: (202) 326-3404

January 24, 2024

Via Federal Express

Burch-Messier Walnut Street Chapel
c/o Chris Burch
317 West Main St.
Bedford, VA 24523

Re: Funeral Rule Compliance Notice

Dear Funeral Provider:

As you know, the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) has issued a trade regulation rule concerning funeral industry practices (“Funeral Rule”), 16 C.F.R. Part 453. The Funeral Rule became fully effective on April 30, 1984, and revisions to the Funeral Rule became effective on July 19, 1994. As amended, the Funeral Rule has the full force and effect of federal law.

The Funeral Rule requires that funeral providers disclose prices and other information to persons arranging funerals. The Funeral Rule requires disclosure of itemized price information both over the telephone and in writing concerning general funeral services and ancillary arrangements offered by the funeral provider, as well as price lists for caskets and outer burial containers. The Funeral Rule prohibits misrepresentations about legal, cemetery or crematory requirements pertaining to the disposition of human remains, including embalming. Certain unfair practices also are prohibited, such as embalming for a fee without prior permission; requiring consumers to purchase caskets for direct cremation; or conditioning the purchase of any funeral good or service upon the purchase of any other funeral good or service. Moreover, the Funeral

In FTC staff's view, t