

**From:** Danny Varat <DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov>  
**To:** Catherine McNicollCatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov  
**Date:** 12/7/2017 1:17:43 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Website email from Lorena Goff Triestram

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What do you suggest?

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**From:** Catherine McNicoll  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 7, 2017 12:18 PM  
**To:** Danny Varat  
**Subject:** FW: Website email from Lorena Goff Triestram

Please advise?

*Best Regards,*  
Catherine McNicoll  
Director of Legal & Legislative Affairs  
Lieutenant Governor's Office  
[CatherineMcNicoll@SCStatehouse.gov](mailto:CatherineMcNicoll@SCStatehouse.gov)  
803-734-5292 (phone)

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**From:** Lorena Goff triestram [mailto:[lorenatre@yahoo.com](mailto:lorenatre@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 07, 2017 11:43 AM  
**To:** Lt. Governor's Office  
**Subject:** Re: Website email from Lorena Goff Triestram

Mr. Bryant,

Thank you for your reply and your kind words.

I understand you have no enforcement authority in Michigan, however, it would not be unheard of for you or Governor McMaster to reach out to the proper authorities on behalf of one of your residents.

I have called, Bill Schuette, the Attorney General in Michigan and could not get pass the secretary; she directed me to someone who could not enforce the law. I wrote him an email, as well. I have received no reply.

Mr. Bryant, I do not have the money for a private attorney. I have a confession from the owner of the funeral home and no one to enforce the law. If you were in my shoes, what would you do?

I realize it seems that this situation only effects me, but that is not the case. If they this to me and my husband, which is one case too many, they feel they are above the law and will do it again.

I, also, told Attorney General about Medicaid fraud that was committed in his state that was connected to my husband; he ignored that too.

What am I to do Mr. Bryant when no one with help?

Sincerely,  
Lorena Goff Triestram

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017 5:41 PM, Lt. Governor's Office <[LtGov@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:LtGov@scstatehouse.gov)> wrote:

Good Evening Lorena,

I am very sorry for your loss and the ordeal that you have faced. However, my office has no enforcement authority over entities in Michigan. This is may be a situation that can only be resolved by a private attorney.

*Best Regards,*  
**Kevin L. Bryant**  
*Lieutenant Governor*  
[LtGov@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:LtGov@scstatehouse.gov)  
803-734-5280

**From:** [lorenatre@yahoo.com](mailto:lorenatre@yahoo.com) [<mailto:lorenatre@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 24, 2017 12:05 PM  
**Subject:** Website email from Lorena Goff Triestram

Mr. Bryant. My name is Lorena Goff Triestram. I am the widow of Bary R Triestram. He passed away July 31, 2015 in Detroit, Michigan. We resided in South Carolina and he traveled to Michigan to receive medical treatment. His wish was to be buried here in South Carolina beside me in our family cemetery. I am contacting you today because Oâ€™Guinn Family Funeral Home refused to give me my husbandâ€™s cremains. They gave his cremains to his mother, sister, and brother-in-law. By both Michigan and South Carolina laws, the spouse has the exclusive rights to their loved oneâ€™s cremains. In short, the director at the funeral home had a contract with the mother and sister two days prior to contacting me (I was at home in South Carolina). By that time, all the arrangements were made and paid for. I was emailed a form and he marked where I was to fill it out and what not to fill out. After I returned the form, I was informed that my husbandâ€™s cremains would be giving to his mother and that by Michigan law, the person who pays for the cremation received the cremains. They refused to return the money to his mother. He did manage to send me one tablespoon of my husbandâ€™s ashes and said I was not to tell his mother because it would up set her. From that day forward, I looked for help everywhere I could think. Eight months later, I received an email from an attorney, attached was the Michigan law that explained the rights of the surviving spouse. He told me that the funeral home had indeed knowingly broke the law. He, however, did not specialize in that kind of case. In fact, I only found a couple attorneys that knew anything about laws concerning funeral homes and they said it would cost an estimated \$30,000, without a guarantee. I contacted the Michigan Attorney Generalâ€™s office, where I was directed to the Michigan License and Regulation Board. I filed a complaint against the Oâ€™Guinn Family Funeral Home and they contacted the owner. Donald Oâ€™Guinn, owner of the funeral home, replied with character attacks on me, along with an admission of guilt! (I have a copy of his response.) Even though he admitted they handed over my husbandâ€™s cremains to my brother-in-law/mother-in-law/sister-in-law, the Michigan License and Regulation Board agent told me that they did not have any legal authority over the issue at hand. He suggested contacting the Attorney Generalâ€™s office. When I told him, they sent me to him, he said he was sorry, there was nothing he could do and wished me luck. I have been sent in circles for 2 Â½ years and the mental, physical, and emotion distress has been and continues to be overwhelming. I am exhausted, and I need your help!! There have been so many illegal things that have taken place and I canâ€™t find anyone willing to stand up for what is right. I am begging youâ€™. Please, help me bring my husband home. I have plenty of information to support my claims and prove their wrong doing. I can send you the complaint and the responses from the Michigan Licences and Regulations Broad, it will give you a more detail account of what took place. Sincerely, Lorena Goff Triestram

Lorena Goff Triestram  
1480 Kennedy Road  
Lugoff, SC 29078  
803-420-6555