Attorney General's News Release

December 23, 2013

Attorney General Koster announces three Kansas City-area funeral homes to be sold to protect competitive pricing for consumers --funeral homes part of acquisition deal facing anti-trust concerns--

Attorney General Chris Koster said today that three Kansas City-area funeral businesses must be sold as part of an acquisition that would combine the two largest funeral businesses in the nation. Koster said he and six other Attorneys General, as well as the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), had concerns that the acquisition “would substantially lessen competition in numerous markets,” including Kansas City.

Koster said the Kansas City-area businesses that must be divested are:

- Mount Moriah Terrace Park Funeral Home & Cemetery, 801 Northwest 108th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64155;
- Johnson County Funeral Chapel & Memorial Gardens, 11200 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, Kansas 66210, and
- Overland Park Chapel, 8201 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, Kansas 66204.

Additional divestitures are expected to be ordered in 14 other states as part of settlements filed by Koster and the six other Attorneys General in U.S. District Court and by the FTC. The six other states are Texas, Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Houston-based Service Corporation International (SCI), the largest funeral business in the nation, is acquiring the second-largest funeral provider, New Orleans-based Stewart Enterprises. SCI owns and operates more than 1,440 funeral-service locations and 374 cemeteries and 100 crematories in 44 states, including Mount Moriah Terrace Park Funeral Home & Cemetery. Stewart owns and operates 217 funeral homes and 141 cemeteries in 24 states, including Johnson County Funeral Chapel & Memorial Gardens and Overland Park Chapel. The two companies have agreed to the terms required by the Attorneys General and the FTC.

“My office closely monitors mergers and acquisitions to protect Missouri consumers,” Koster said. “People selecting funeral services are often in a fragile state of mind, and we want to make sure they are
Attorney General Koster announces three Kansas City-area funeral homes to be sold to protect competitive pricing for consumers -- funeral homes part of ac… not taken advantage of by unfair pricing schemes.”

In addition to the divestitures, the agreement requires SCI to provide notice of future acquisitions in the Kansas City-area and other specific markets.