

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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## DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

April 30, 2009

TO: Each Supervisor  
FROM: *Robin Kay for*  
Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.  
Director of Mental Health  
SUBJECT: **LORENZEN CONSERVATORSHIP AND TRUST**

This is to advise your Board of the actions we have undertaken serving as successor conservator and trustee for Mrs. Virginia Lorenzen. The Public Guardian was appointed to serve as successor conservator and trustee by the Probate Court to replace Northern Trust Company, which resigned in 2003.

In order to effectively carry out the responsibilities as conservator and trustee imposed by law, which include reasonable care and management of Mrs. Lorenzen's person and estate, the Public Guardian was ordered by the Probate Court to sell real property owned by Mrs. Lorenzen, including six adjacent parcels located in Reseda. The Lorenzen Family Mortuary currently operates in a building on one of the six parcels that were sold. The beneficial owner of the mortuary is Mrs. Lorenzen, but the business is currently managed by the funeral director, Jon Lorenzen, who is one of Mrs. Lorenzen's sons.

In the course of handling Mrs. Lorenzen's business affairs, the Public Guardian was notified of significant unresolved tax liabilities to the IRS related to the Lorenzen Family Mortuary operation. Those tax liabilities were incurred by the funeral director, Jon Lorenzen, but impose liability upon and are the responsibility of the beneficial owner, Mrs. Virginia Lorenzen, our conservatee. The IRS has offered to compromise the claim, which would be in the best interests of Mrs. Lorenzen. However, in order to compromise the claim and satisfy the demands of the IRS, the Lorenzen Family Mortuary must be closed no later than June 1, 2009 and a portion of the tax liability fully paid. The Public Guardian has begun the process of notifying Jon Lorenzen and his attorneys of its intent to accept the IRS compromise and meet the IRS demand to close the mortuary.

The Public Guardian is aware that closing the Lorenzen Family Mortuary will impact the four employees of the Lorenzen Family Mortuary. Jon Lorenzen may establish his own mortuary business under a different tax identification number but unfortunately, in order to compromise the IRS claim, the Lorenzen Family Mortuary must be closed and the current tax liabilities must be resolved.

MJS:CDD:ela

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Chief Executive Officer

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*