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NEWS RELEASE

FORMER FUNERAL DIRECTOR UNDER HOME INCARCERATION ***Must repay more than \$61,000 by July 1 or face 30 months in jail***

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 9, 2008) – The clock is ticking for a former Pikeville funeral director who pleaded guilty to 24 felony counts relating to insurance and funeral services fraud earlier this week.

Richard D. Justice, 55, of Pikeville, collected funds from consumers for prepaid funeral arrangements and failed to make the purchases or credit the appropriate trusts. Under the terms of the plea agreement, he must repay more than \$61,000 to his victims or their estates by the July 1 sentencing date or face 30 months in jail. He currently is under home incarceration pending sentencing.

The Kentucky Office of Insurance Fraud Investigations Division began investigating Justice in October 2006 and has evidence that he took more than \$87,000 from consumers. He previously repaid a portion of that amount.

Justice Funeral Home closed in late 2006 and has since reopened under another name and with new management. In addition to the felony counts, Justice faces a misdemeanor count of acting as a funeral director without a license. He has agreed to not seek employment in the retail funeral industry.

The Office of Insurance is an agency of the Department of Public Protection in the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet.