

4. Under Section 17.20(3)(b), Florida Statutes, an agency may request an exemption when assignment to a collections agency would be inappropriate. The agency must provide a written request, explaining the reasons the agency believes the account should be precluded from collections.

5. In January of 2024, internet research confirmed the passing of Shawn Elton Thomas on March 18, 2022.

6. On its own motion, the Commission determines that the \$350.00 fine assessed against Shawn Elton Thomas is uncollectible and requests that the Department of Financial Services consider it to be exempt from collection.

DONE and ORDERED by the State of Florida Commission on Ethics meeting in public session on Friday, March 8, 2024.

Date Rendered


Ashley Lukis
Chair


AL/dw

cc: Claims for Collection, Department of Financial Services



Shawn Elton Earl Thomas

 March 22, 1982 - March 18, 2022 (39 years old)

 [Saint Petersburg, Florida](#)

Shawn Elton Earl Thomas Obituary

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Shawn Elton Earl Thomas (Saint Petersburg, Florida), who passed away on March 18, 2022, at the age of 39, leaving to mourn family and friends. Family and friends are welcome to [send flowers](#) or leave their condolences on this memorial page and share them with the family.

Funeral arrangement under the care of
[Lawson Funeral & Cremation Services](#)



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Events

Fri
Apr 01

Visitation

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
505 35th St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Sat
Apr 02

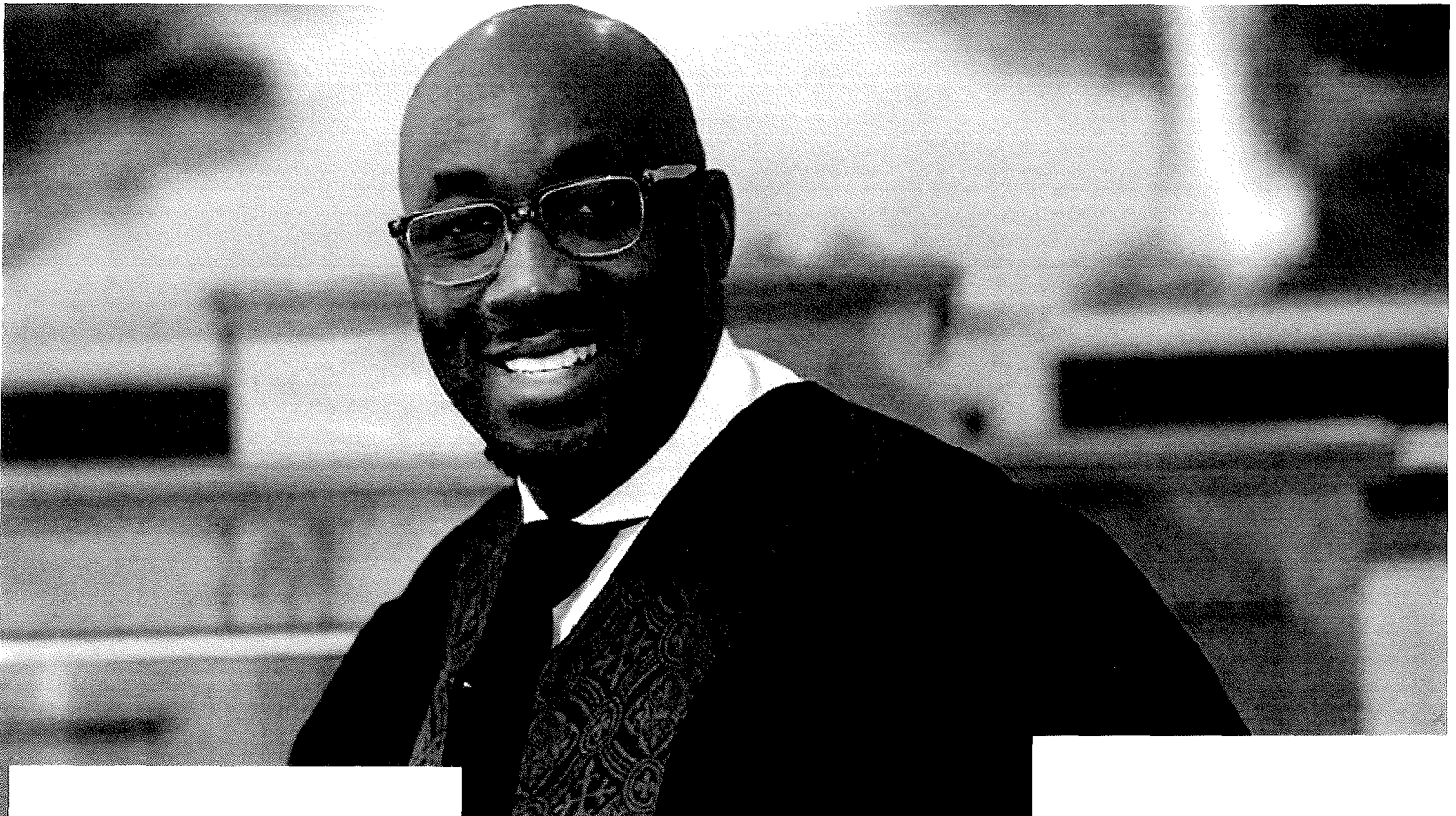
Funeral service

First Baptist Church
1900 Gandy Blvd N, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

NEWS / ST. PETERSBURG

St. Petersburg pastor lost to drowning accident leaves legacy of mentoring youth

The Rev. Shawn E.E. Thomas spent nearly 20 years working in ministry, and became pastor of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in November. Friends and family recalled his love of faith and community.



Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, died on March 18 after a boating ;

By **Natalie Weber** *Times staff*

Published March 31, 2022 | Updated March 31, 2022

As a kid, he would come home from church on Sundays, go into the bathroom and practice imitating the pastor in front of the mirror.

The Rev. Shawn E.E. Thomas, pastor at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, died March 18 in a drowning accident that left the city and the faith community reeling. He was 39, just a few days short of his 40th birthday.

First responders had rescued Thomas and a friend from Lake Seminole after the boat they were using began taking on water. Thomas later went back out on the water with a different friend and tried to recover the boat, which belonged to another pastor. But as he was standing on the damaged boat, Thomas got dragged into the water and his friend wasn't able to rescue him. Pinellas deputies searched for Thomas that evening and recovered his body about four hours later.

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Jocelyn Williams, a friend of Thomas' since high school who attends Galilee, described the pastor as an analytical and critical thinker, and the question of why he chose to get back on the boat troubles her.

"If you knew him, you understood him going back to get the boat, but what you can't figure out or really wrap your brain around is why he actually got on the boat," she said.