

CHAPTER 149

EMBALMERS

149.11 Prearranged funeral plans; contracts; trust funds.

149.11 PREARRANGED FUNERAL PLANS; CONTRACTS; TRUST FUNDS.

(a) When prior to the death of any person, that person or another enters into any transaction, makes a contract, or any series or combination of transactions or contracts with another person, partnership, association or corporation, other than an insurance company licensed to do business in the state of Minnesota, by the terms of which, certain personal property related to the funeral services or the burial, cremation, or other disposition of human remains will be used upon the death of the person for whom the property is to be used, or when the professional services of a funeral director or embalmer will then be furnished, or both, then the total of all money paid by the terms of the transaction, contract or series or combination of transactions or contracts shall be held in trust for the purpose for which it has been paid until the death of the person for whose benefit the money was paid, or refunded to the person who made the payment or payments, upon demand. Accruals of interest or dividends declared upon the sum of money held in trust are subject to the same trust. The person, partnership, association or corporation holding the money in trust shall inform the person on whose behalf the money is held that all money paid plus all accrued earnings will be held in trust until the death of that person or until a request for a refund is made if made prior to death.

The personal property shall include but not be limited to a casket, burial vault not interred in a grave, combination casket-vault or other receptacle not described in paragraph (b) for the internment, entombment, cremation, or other disposition of human remains.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prevent the sale and delivery of cemetery lots, graves, burial vaults preinterred in a grave, cremation urns, crypt spaces, niches, columbaria, or grave or lot markers or monuments before their use is required. Nothing in this section prevents the preconstruction sale of crypt spaces to be permanently installed.

(c) It is the intent of the legislature that the provisions of this section shall be construed as a limitation upon the manner in which a person or legal entity is permitted to accept funds in prepayment of funeral services to be performed in the future or in prepayment of funeral or burial goods to be used in connection with the funeral or final disposition of human remains. It is further intended to allow members of the public to arrange and pay for funerals, final dispositions, funeral services, and funeral and burial goods for themselves and their families in advance of need while at the same time providing all possible safeguards so that the prepaid funds cannot be dissipated, whether intentionally or not, so as to be available for the payment of the services and goods selected.

History: 1985 c 95 s 1