

## Article 70B - Office on Aging

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(a) (1) The Director on Aging shall receive and investigate complaints concerning the operations of related institutions, as defined in § 556 (d) of Article 43, and he may, on his own motion, make on-site visits to determine if these institutions are in compliance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

[(b)] (2) If the Director on Aging finds that any such related institution is in violation of any statute, rule, or regulation of any State agency which is directly and specifically charged with the regulations of any aspect of the institution, he or she shall immediately notify that agency in writing of the findings of fact. If the violation or condition is not corrected within a reasonable time, the Director shall, with the prior approval of the Commission, request the State agency to take the steps necessary to bring the institution into compliance, and the agency shall take appropriate action.

(B) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "NURSING HOME" MEANS ~~RELATED-INSTITUTION-AS DEFINED--IN--§--556(D)--OF--ARTICLE--43~~ COMPREHENSIVE CARE FACILITIES AND EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES.

(3) "UNCLAIMED DECEASED NURSING HOME RESIDENT" MEANS A RESIDENT OF A NURSING HOME WHO HAS NOT PREARRANGED AND PREPAID FOR THE DISPOSAL OF HIS BODY AND FOR WHOM NO ~~RELATIVE~~ PERSON HAS CLAIMED THE BODY AND ASSUMED FUNERAL OR BURIAL RESPONSIBILITY UPON THE DEATH OF THE RESIDENT.

(C) THE DIRECTOR ON AGING SHALL SET GUIDELINES FOR NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS WITH REGARD TO FUNERAL AND BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR UNCLAIMED DECEASED NURSING HOME RESIDENTS WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE ANATOMY BOARD. THE GUIDELINES SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH § 159 OF ARTICLE 43 OF THE CODE.

(D) THE ADMINISTRATOR OF A NURSING HOME SHALL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE OFFICE ON AGING OF THE DEATH OF AN UNCLAIMED DECEASED NURSING HOME RESIDENT AND SHALL OBTAIN THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE OFFICE ON AGING FOR THE BURIAL AND FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THAT RESIDENT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1981.

Approved May 19, 1981.

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