

(ii) in the report of the death, make an exact inventory of the property; and

(iii) deliver the property to the appropriate sheriff or police department.

(2) The sheriff or police department shall surrender the property to the person who is entitled to its possession or custody.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That "Subtitle 10. Controlled Dangerous Substances" of Title 10 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, be renamed to be "Subtitle 10. Chain of Custody".

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That "Part I. Controlled Dangerous Substances" be added to Subtitle 10, Title 10, of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, to precede Sections 10-1001, 10-1002, and 10-1003.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland read(s) as follows:

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

PART II. BODIES

10-1004.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CASE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-301(C) OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE.

(3) "MORTICIAN" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 6-101(K) OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.

(B) (1) IN A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING FOR A DEATH WHICH IS A MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CASE, THE CHAIN OF PHYSICAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL MAY BE ESTABLISHED BY A SIGNED STATEMENT BY THE MORTICIAN, OR THE MORTICIAN'S AGENT, SERVANT, OR EMPLOYEE, WHO TRANSPORTED THE BODY TO THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE, WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF THE PERSONAL APPEARANCE IN COURT BY THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THE STATEMENT.

(2) THE STATEMENT SHALL CONTAIN:

(1) A DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIAL CONDITION OF THE BODY WHEN IT WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE MORTICIAN OR THE MORTICIAN'S AGENT, SERVANT, OR EMPLOYEE;