

(D) "CREMATION" MEANS THE DISPOSITION OF A DEAD HUMAN BODY BY MEANS OF INCINERATION.

(E) "DECEDENT" MEANS A DEAD HUMAN BEING.

(F) "PRACTITIONER" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS LICENSED BY THE STATE AS A FUNERAL DIRECTOR, MORTICIAN, OR SURVIVING SPOUSE LICENSEE TO PRACTICE MORTUARY SCIENCE.

(G) "PRENEED CONTRACT" MEANS AN AGREEMENT PRIOR TO THE TIME OF DEATH BETWEEN A CONSUMER AND A PRACTITIONER TO PROVIDE ANY GOODS AND SERVICES REGARDING THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF A DEAD HUMAN BODY.

5-502.2.

(A) ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO IS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER MAY DECIDE THE DISPOSITION OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S OWN BODY AFTER THAT INDIVIDUAL'S DEATH WITHOUT THE PREDEATH OR POST-DEATH CONSENT OF ANOTHER PERSON BY EXECUTING A DOCUMENT THAT EXPRESSES THE INDIVIDUAL'S WISHES REGARDING CREMATION OR BY ENTERING INTO A PRENEED CONTRACT.

(B) IN ORDER TO BE VALID, ANY DOCUMENT EXECUTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MUST BE WRITTEN AND SIGNED BY THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE PRESENCE OF A WITNESS, WHO, IN TURN, SHALL SIGN THE DOCUMENT IN THE PRESENCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

(C) UNLESS A PERSON HAS KNOWLEDGE THAT CONTRARY DIRECTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY THE DECEDENT, IF A DECEDENT HAS NOT EXECUTED A DOCUMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING PERSONS, IN THE ORDER OF PRIORITY STATED, HAVE THE RIGHT TO ARRANGE FOR THE FINAL DISPOSITION BY CREMATION OF THE BODY OF THE DECEDENT UNDER § 5-502 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND ARE LIABLE FOR THE REASONABLE COSTS OF PREPARATION, CARE, AND DISPOSITION OF THE DECEDENT:

(1) THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF THE DECEDENT;

(2) AN ADULT CHILD OF THE DECEDENT;

(3) A PARENT OF THE DECEDENT;

(4) AN ADULT BROTHER OR SISTER OF THE DECEDENT;

(5) A PERSON ACTING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DECEDENT UNDER A SIGNED AUTHORIZATION OF THE DECEDENT;

(6) THE GUARDIAN OF THE PERSON OF THE DECEDENT AT THE TIME OF THE DECEDENT'S DEATH, IF ONE HAS BEEN APPOINTED; OR

(7) IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY PERSON UNDER PARAGRAPHS (1) THROUGH (6) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ANY OTHER PERSON WILLING TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT AS THE AUTHORIZING AGENT FOR PURPOSES OF ARRANGING THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE DECEDENT'S BODY, INCLUDING THE