

(3) A medical examiner.

(c) If a person who is authorized to arrange for final disposition of a body is not available to identify the body and authorize cremation, that person may delegate that authority to another person by sending to the delegate a telegram that contains the name, address, and relationship of the sender to the deceased and the name and address of the individual to whom authority is delegated. Written authorization shall follow by mail but does not take precedence over the telegram authorizing the identification and cremation.

~~5-502.1.~~ 5-508.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) "Authorizing agent" means the individual who has legal authority to arrange for and make decisions regarding the final disposition of a dead human body, INCLUDING by cremation.

(c) "Crematory" is a building in which cremations are performed.

(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.~~ 5-509.

(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] DISPOSITION OF THE BODY 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, ~~INCLUDING by cremation~~ of the body of the decedent, INCLUDING BY CREMATION 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;