

State of Misconsin LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESEARCH APPENDIX PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE FROM DRAFTING FILE

Date Transfer Requested: 02/15/2007 (Per: DAK)

Appendix A ... Part 04 of 05

The 2005 drafting file for LRB-3104

has been transferred to the drafting file for

2007 LRB-1482

This cover sheet, the final request sheet, and the final version of the 2005 draft were copied on yellow paper, and returned to the original 2005 drafting file.

The attached 2005 draft was incorporated into the new 2007 draft listed above. For research purposes, this cover sheet and the complete drafting file were transferred, as a separate appendix, to the 2007 drafting file. If introduced this section will be scanned and added, as a separate appendix, to the electronic drafting file folder.



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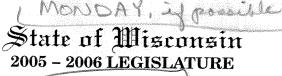
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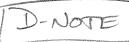
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PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION



AN ACT to create 157.056 of the statutes; relating to: control of final disposition

of certain human remains

and providing a penalty)

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill is drafted in preliminary form. An analysis will be included in a subsequent version.

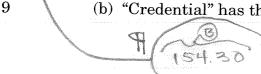
The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 157.056 of the statutes is created to read:

157.056 Control of final disposition of certain human remains. (1)

DEFINITIONS. (a) "Authorization for final disposition" means a written, signed document that is acknowledged before a notary public or is witnessed and that is voluntarily executed by a declarant under sub. (8), but is not limited in form or substance to that provided in sub. (8).

(b) "Credential" has the meaning given in s. 440.01 (2) (a).



1	(c) "Declarant" means an individual who executes an authorization for final
2	disposition.
3	(d) "Estranged" means being physically and emotionally separated for a period
4	of time, at the time of the decedent's death, and clearly demonstrating an absence of
5	due affection, trust, and regard.
	****Note: This definition, from the instructions, may be inapt, in part. Two people who are physically separate from each other and who dislike each other extremely may not be "emotionally separate" from each other; in fact, they may share the same emotion—hatred. It seems to me that the language about emotional separation is unnecessary, given the requirement of a clear demonstration of an absence of due affection, trust, and regard.
6	(e) "Final disposition" means disposition of a decedent's remains, including any
7	of the following:
8	1. Arrangements for a viewing.
9	2. A funeral ceremony, memorial service, graveside service, or other last rite.
10	3. A burial, cremation and burial, or other disposition, or donation of the
11	decedent's body.
12	(f) "Health care provider" means any person who has a credential to provide
13	health care.
14	(g) "Member of the clergy" has the meaning given in s. 765.002 (1).
15	(h) "Representative" means an individual specifically designated in an
16	authorization for final disposition or, if that individual is unable or unwilling to carry
17	out the declarant's decisions and preferences, a successor representative designated
18	in the authorization for final disposition to do so.
19	(2) Individuals with control of final disposition; order. Except as provided
20	in sub. (3), any of the following, as prioritized in the following order, who is at least
21	18 years old and has not been adjudicated incompetent under ch. 880, may control
22	final disposition, including the location, manner, and conditions of final disposition:

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- (a) A representative of the decedent acting under the decedent's authorization for final disposition that conveys to the representative the control of final disposition.
 - (b) The surviving spouse of the decedent.
- (c) The surviving child of the decedent, unless more than one child of the decedent survives. In such an instance, the majority of the surviving children has control of the final disposition, except that fewer than the majority of the surviving children may control the final disposition if that minority has used reasonable efforts to notify all other surviving children and is not aware of opposition by the majority to the minority's intended final disposition.
- (d) The surviving parent or parents of the decedent or a surviving parent who is available if the other surviving parent is unavailable after the available surviving parent has made reasonable efforts to locate him or her.
- (e) The surviving sibling of the decedent, unless more than one sibling of the decedent survives. In such an instance, the majority of the surviving siblings has control of the final disposition, except that fewer than the majority of the surviving siblings may control the final disposition if that minority has used reasonable efforts to notify all other surviving siblings and is not aware of opposition by the majority to the minority's intended final disposition.
- (f) In descending order, an individual in the class of the next degree of kinship specified in s. 852.01(1).

****Note: I would suggest that this order of kinship, which is for division of property if a decedent dies without making a will, is much more complex, less easy to understand, and appears to be less appropriate than the degrees of kinship specified in s. 990.001 (16), stats.; it also is confusing in relation to the order already set forth under pars. (a) to (e) of this subsection.

(g) The guardian of the person, if any, of the decedent.

LRB-3104/P2 DAK:lmk:pg SECTION 1

he or she has

(h) Any individual other than an individual specified under pars. (a) to (g) who 1 is willing to control the final disposition and who attests in writing that/a good-faith effort has been made, to no avail, to contact the individuals under pars. (a) to (g). NOTE: Is this individual supposed to make the good-faith effort? If this issue INSERT is not clarified, it is entirely uncertain who must perform this task. 4-2 (3) Exceptions. (a) All of the following are exceptions to any control conferred 4 5 under sub. (2): 1. The disposition of any unrevoked anatomical gift made by the decedent 6 under s. 157.06 (2) or made by an individual other than the decedent under s. 157.06 7 (3) or (4). $^{\checkmark}$ 8 2. Any power or duty of a coroner, medical examiner, or other physician licensed 9 10 to perform autopsies with respect to the reporting of certain deaths, performance of 11 autopsies, and inquests under ch. 979. 12 (b) None of the following is authorized under sub. (2) to control the final Except as provided in sub. (2)(i); 13 disposition: 14 An individual who is otherwise authorized to control final disposition under the order of priority of individuals specified in sub. (2) but who has been charged with 15 any of the following in connection with the decedent's death and the charges are 16 known to the funeral director or crematory authority, unless the charges 17 18 dismissed or the individual is found not guilty of the offense: ****Note: Is the "unless" clause realistic here, i.e., does final disposition of a body usually await a trial (with possible appeal) and a finding of not guilty? 19 a. First-degree intentional homicide under s. 940.01 (1). 20 b. First-degree reckless homicide under s. 940.02. 21 c. Second-degree intentional homicide under s. 940.05. 22 d. Second-degree reckless homicide under s. 940.06.

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1	e. Homicide resulting from negligent control of a vicious animal under s.
2	940.07.
3	f. Homicide by the negligent operation or handling of a dangerous weapon,
4	explosives, or fire under s. 940.08.
5	g. Homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle or firearm under s. 940.09.
6	h. Homicide by the negligent operation of a vehicle under s. 940.10.
Annual Research Control of Contro	****Note: This state does not have the crime of voluntary manslaughter, as Ohio apparently does; please review the crimes that I have specified instead. Please also note that several of these crimes apply to the death of an unborn child; is that what you intend?
7	2. An individual who is otherwise authorized to control final disposition under
8	the order of priority of individuals specified in sub. (2) but who fails to exercise this
9	authorization within 2 days after he or she is notified of the decedent's death or
10	within 5 days after the decedent's death, whichever is later.
	****Note: Again, who is to perform the task of notifying individuals specified in sub.
11	3. The decedent's spouse, if an action under ch. 767 to terminate the marriage
12	of the spouse and the decedent was pending at the time of the decedent's death.
13	4. An individual for whom a determination is made under by the probate court
14	under par. (c) 2. b. that the individual and the decedent were estranged at the time
15	of death.
16	(c) If the individuals specified in sub. (2) are unable to agree on the final
17	disposition, the probate court that has jurisdiction for the county in which the
18	decedent resided at the time of his or her death may designate an individual as most
19	fit and appropriate to control the final disposition. All of the following apply to a
20	designation made under this paragraph:
21)	1. A petition regarding control of the final disposition may be filed with the
22	probate court by any of the following:

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****Note: Shouldn't "may" in this provision be "shall?" It appears to be the only way in which the issue is properly before the probate court, at least according to the instructions.

a. Before his or her death, the decedent or his or her legal representative.

b. After the decedent's death, a relative of the decedent; an individual seeking control of the final disposition who claims a closer personal relationship to the decedent than the decedent's next of kin, who has lived with the decedent, and who was not in the employ of the decedent or the decedent's family, or if 2 or more individuals who are otherwise authorized to control the final disposition under the order of priority of individuals specified in sub. (2) cannot, by majority vote, decide concerning the final disposition, any of those individuals or the funeral director or crematory authority that possesses the decedent's remains.

****Note: I do not understand this paragraph. Why would the decedent file a petition with the probate court rather than signing an authorization? Is this paragraph supposed to apply if *any* individual specified under sub. (2) disagrees, or only if an individual in a particular group under the order of priority disagrees with other members of that group? If the former, this paragraph seems to mean that a decedent's otherwise-valid authorization, or the order of priority of individuals, has no meaning if others disagree with it. If that is the case, what is the purpose of sub. (2)?

- 2. The probate court may consider all of the following:
 - a. The reasonableness and practicality of the proposed final disposition.
- b. The degree of the personal relationship between the decedent and each of the individuals claiming the right of final disposition, including whether the decedent was estranged from any of the individuals.
 - c. Except as provided in subd. 3., the desires of the individual or individuals who are ready, able, and willing to pay the cost of the final disposition.
- d. The convenience to and needs of other families and friends who wish to pay
- final respects to the decedent.

19 The express written desires of the decedent.

NOTE: What does this language mean? Is it referring to a will or to an authorization of the decedent? If so, wouldn't either of those documents take priority?

family members; friends; and

1 The degree to which any proposed final disposition would permit maximum participation by alkindividuals who wish to pay final respects to the decedent.

*** NOTE: How is this provision different from d., above?

- 3. An individual's payment or agreement to pay for all or part of the costs of final disposition, or the fact that an individual is the personal representative of the decedent, does not, by itself, provide the individual any greater opportunity to control the final disposition than the individual otherwise has under this section.
- (4) DECLINING TO EXERCISE CONTROL OR RESIGNING CONTROL. An individual who is otherwise authorized to control final disposition under the order of priority of individuals specified in sub. (2) or who is designated under sub. (3) (c) may accept the control, may decline to exercise the control, or may, after accepting the control, resign it.
- (5) LIABILITY OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR OR CREMATORY AUTHORITY. (a) If inability to agree exists among any individuals, as specified in sub. (3) (c) (intro.), no funeral director or crematory authority is liable for his or her refusal to accept the decedent's remains, to inter or otherwise dispose of the decedent's remains, or to complete the arrangements for the final disposition unless specifically directed to do so under an order of the probate court or unless the individuals in disagreement present the funeral director or crematory authority with a written agreement, signed by the individuals, that specifies the final disposition.
- (b) A funeral director or crematory authority that retains the remains of a decedent for final disposition before individuals specified in sub. (3) (c) (intro.) reach agreement or before the probate court makes a final decision under sub. (3) (c) may embalm or refrigerate and shelter the remains while awaiting the agreement or the

cost

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probate court's decision and may add the cost of embalming or refrigeration and

probate court's decision and may add the cost of embalming or refrigeration and shelter, as appropriate, to the final disposition costs.

(c) If a funeral director or crematory authority brings an action under this

subsection, the funeral director or crematory authority may add reasonable legal

fees and court costs associated with bringing a petition under sub (3) (c) 1 to the cost

6 of final disposition.

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****Note: This paragraph uses the language "brings an action under this subsection." Usually that language refers to a suit of some kind, but this subsection has no provision for a suit. Is it, instead, referring to bringing a petition under sub. (3) (c)?

review of the

(d) This subsection may not be construed to require or otherwise impose a duty upon a funeral director or crematory authority to bring an action under this

subsection, and a funeral director or crematory authority may not be held criminally

or civilly liable for failing or omitting to bring an action under this subsection

****Note: Please see the ****Note under par. (c).

(e) In the absence of written notice to the contrary from an individual who claims control of the final disposition because of precedence under the order of priority of individuals specified under sub. (2), no funeral director or crematory authority, who relies in good faith on instructions concerning the final disposition from another individual who first claims control of the final disposition but has less precedence under the order of priority of individuals specified in sub. (2), and who acts or omits to act in accordance with these instructions, is civilly or criminally liable or may be found guilty of unprofessional conduct for the action or omission.

*****Note: Please review this provision carefully. I have combined s. 157.07 (4) and (5) of the proposed instructions

- (6) LIABILITY FOR COSTS OF FINAL DISPOSITION. (a) Liability for the reasonable costs of the final disposition is as follows:
 - 1. From the decedent's estate, as specified under s. 859.25 (1).

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2. From the individual or individuals exercising control of final disposition, for any claims remaining after payment is made under subd. 1. except as provided in

par. (b)

****Note: What if the individual exercising control, or who has been designated by the probate court to exercise control, is the funeral director or crematory authority?

(b) If an individual who first exercises control of final disposition subsequently resigns that control under sub. (4) before completion, any reasonable costs of the final disposition that are encumbered by the individual before resigning and that are not paid under par. (a) 1. are the liability of the individual.

****Note: Please review this subsection carefully. I have combined s. 157.07 (6) and (7) of the proposed instructions.

- (7) JURISDICTION. The probate court for the county in which the decedent last resided has exclusive jurisdiction over matters that arise under this section.
- (8) AUTHORIZATION FOR FINAL DISPOSITION. (a) An individual who is of sound mind and has attained age 18 may voluntarily execute an authorization for final disposition, which shall take effect on the date of execution. An individual for whom an adjudication of incompetence and appointment of a guardian of the person is in effect under ch. 880 is presumed not to be of sound mind for purposes of this subsection.
- (b) An authorization for final disposition may express the declarant's special directions, instructions concerning religious observances, and suggestions concerning the source of funds for any of the following:
 - 1. Arrangements for a viewing.
 - 2. Funeral ceremony, memorial service, graveside service, or other last rite.
- Burial, cremation and burial, or other disposition, or donation of the declarant's body after death.

1	(c) An authorization for final disposition authorizes a representative and one
2	or more named successor representatives to carry out the directions, instructions,
3	and suggestions of the declarant, as expressed in the declarant's authorization for
4	final disposition.
5	(d) An authorization for final disposition shall meet all of the following
6	requirements:
7	1. List the name and last-known address, as of the date of execution of the
8	authorization for final disposition, of each representative and each successor
9	representative named, and be signed by each representative and each successor
10	representative named.
	****Note: The instructions seem to require that the representative, successor representative, declarant, and witnesses all sign at the same time, which might be difficult and cumbersome to achieve.
(11)	2. Be signed and dated by the declarant. A with the signature WA
(12)	Be witnessed by 2 witnesses who each have attained age 18 and who are not
(13)	related by blood, marriage, or adoption to the declarant, or acknowledged before
14	a notary public. INSERT 10-14
15	(e) No health care provider, funeral director, crematory authority, employee of
16	a funeral director or crematory authority, or member of the clergy may serve as a
17	representative under the requirements of this subsection unless he or she is related
18	to the declarant by blood, marriage, or adoption.

(19)

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AUTHORIZATION FOR FINAL DISPOSITION

****Note: I have specified "under the requirements of this subsection" for this

I, (print name and address), being of sound mind, willfully and voluntarily make known by this document my desire that, upon my death, the final disposition

provision because otherwise there is a conflict with both subs. (2) (h) and (3) (c) 1. b.

(f) An authorization for final disposition may be in the following form:

Ţ	of my remains be under the control of my representative under the requirements of
2	section 157.056, Wisconsin statutes, and, with respect to that final disposition only,
3	I hereby appoint the representative and any successor representative named in this
4	document. All decisions made by my representative or any successor representative
5	with respect to the final disposition of my remains are binding.
	****Note: This statement does not require that the representative act in accordance with the declarant's desires expressed in the document
6	Name of representative
7	Address
8	Telephone number
9	If my representative dies, becomes incapacitated, resigns, refuses to act, ceases
10	to be qualified, or cannot be located within the time necessary to control the final
11	disposition of my remains, I hereby appoint the following individuals, each to act
12	alone and successively, in the order specified, to serve as my successor
13	representative:
14	1. Name of first successor representative
15	Address
16	Telephone number
17	2. Name of second successor representative
18	Address
19	Telephone number
20	SUGGESTED SPECIAL DIRECTIONS
21	SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING RELIGIOUS
22	OBSERVANCES

1	SUGGESTED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR IMPLEMENTING FINAL DISPOSITION DIRECTIONS AND
2	INSTRUCTIONS
	***Note: All of these provisions are "suggested" only; what is intended by this? If it is intended that the directions, instructions, etc., are subject to reasonableness, it should say so. In addition, if the "suggested source of funds" is in conflict with s. 157.056 (6), this instruction could not be carried out, and it would be misleading to the declarant to think it could be.
3	This authorization becomes effective upon my death.
4	I hereby revoke any prior authorization for final disposition that I may have
5	signed before the date that this document is signed.
6	I hereby agree that any funeral director or crematory authority that receives
7	a copy of this document may act under it. Any modification or revocation of this
8	document is not effective as to a funeral director or crematory authority until the
9	funeral director or crematory authority receives actual notice of the modification or
10	revocation. No funeral director or crematory authority may be liable because of
11	reliance on a copy of this document.
12	The representative and any successor representative, by accepting
13	appointment under this document, assume the powers and duties specified for a
(14)	representative under section 157.056, Wisconsin statutes, including liability for the
15	reasonable costs of the final disposition of my remains. Is if the assets of me
	Note: Note that this provision conflicts with sub. (6) (a) insufficient to pa
16	Signed thisday of
17	Signature of declarant
18	I hereby accept appointment as representative for the control of final
19	disposition of the declarant's remains.
20 🖈	Signature of representative.

1	I hereby accept appointment as successor representative for the control of final
2	disposition of the declarant's remains.
3	Signature of first successor representative.
4	Signature of second successor representative.
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6	I attest that the declarant signed or acknowledged this authorization for final
7	disposition in my presence and that the declarant appears to be of sound mind and
8	not subject to duress, fraud, or undue influence. I further attest that I am not the
, 9 °	representative or the successor representative appointed under this document, that
10	I am aged at least 18, and that I am not related to the declarant by blood, marriage,
11	or adoption.
12	Witness (print name)
13	Signature
14	Address
15	Date
16	
17	Witness (print name)
18	Signature
19	Address
20	Date
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22	State of Wisconsin
23	County of
24	On (date), before me personally appeared
25	(name of declarant), known to me or

f	INS	ERT 14-6)
1	7	(END)
	6	My commission expires
	5	Notary public
	4	mind and not subject to duress, fraud, or undue influence.
	3	for the purposes expressed in it. I attest that the declarant appears to be of sound
	2	as the declarant and who has acknowledged that he or she executed the document
	1	satisfactorily proven to be the individual whose name is specified in this document

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2005–2006 DRAFTING INSERT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

	INSERT 1–3
1	SECTION 1. 69.18 (4) (a) 1. of the statutes is renumbered 69.18 (4) (a) 1m.
2	SECTION 2. 69.18 (4) (a) 1g. of the statutes is created to read:
3	69.18 (4) (a) 1g. An individual specified under s. 154.30 (2) (i).
4	SECTION 3. 69.20 (2) (a) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:
5	69.20 (2) (a) 2. For a certificate of death, any of the persons specified under s.
6	69.18(4)(a) 1. 1g. to 6. or an individual who is authorized in writing by one of the
7	persons.
8	History: 1985 a. 315; 1993 a. 27; 1995 a. 27 s. 9145 (1); 1997 a. 27, 191; 2001 a. 16. SECTION 4. Chapter 154 (title) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:
9	CHAPTER 154
10	ADVANCE DIRECTIVES V
11	SECTION 5. Subchapter IV of chapter 154 [precedes 154.30] of the statutes is
12	created to read:
13	CHAPTER 154
14	SUBCHAPTER IV
15	AUTHORIZATION FOR FINAL DISPOSITION (3) (3) INSERT 4-3
16	(i) An individual specified in par (b) 1. for whom charges under par (b) 1. a. to
17	d. are dismissed or who is found not guilty of the offense. Subject to s. 69.18 (4), the
18	control of final disposition under this paragraph, with respect to a decedent for whom
19	disposition has already been made of his or her remains, is limited, as appropriate,
20	to any of the following:
21	A funeral ceremony, memorial service, graveside service, or other last rite.
22	U. (b) Disinterment. √

1 b c Reinterment, cremation and reinterment, or other disposition of the decedent's body.

INSERT 10-14

If the declarant is physically unable to sign an authorization for final disposition, the authorization shall be signed in the declarant's name by an individual at the declarant's express direction and in his or her presence; such a proxy signing shall take place or be acknowledged by the declarant in the presence of 2 witnesses or a notary public.

INSERT 10-19

The department shall prepare and provide copies of the authorization for final disposition form and accompanying information for distribution in quantities to funeral directors, crematory authorities, hospitals, nursing homes, county clerks, and local bar associations and individually to private persons. The department shall include, in information accompanying the authorization for final disposition form, at least the statutory definitions of terms used in the form, a statement explaining that valid witnesses acting in good faith are statutorily immune from civil or criminal liability, and an instruction to potential declarants to read and understand the information before completing the form. The department may charge a reasonable fee for the cost of preparation and distribution. The authorization for final disposition form distributed by the department shall be easy to read, in type size no smaller than 10-point, and in the following form:

INSERT 14-6

(9) REVOCATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR FINAL DISPOSITION. A declarant may revoke an authorization for final disposition at any time by any of the following methods:

(a) Cancelling, defacing, obliterating, burning, tearing, or otherwise destroying
the authorization for final disposition or directing some other person to cancel
deface, obliterate, burn, tear, or otherwise destroy the authorization for fina
disposition in the presence of the declarant. \checkmark
(b) Revoking in writing the authorization for final disposition. The declarant
shall sign and date any written revocation under this subsection

- (c) Executing a subsequent authorization for final disposition. \checkmark
- (10) PENALTY. Any person who intentionally conceals, cancels, defaces, obliterates, or damages the authorization for final disposition of another without the declarant's consent may be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than 30 days or both. \checkmark

DRAFTER'S NOTE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-3104/P3dn DAK:lmk:pg

(date)

To Representative Kerkman:

I am again providing this bill to you in preliminary form, since a number of changes have been made to it. Among other things, I have renumbered the provisions to be in ch. 154, stats., and I have added provisions concerning distribution of the form by the Department of Health and Family Services, revocation of the authorization, signing of the authorization by a proxy on behalf of the declarant, and a penalty. I did not add the option not to designate a representative, although I would be glad to to do so if you desire it. The following issues arose during this redraft:

- 1. I have modified s. 154.30 (3) (b) 1. Attorney Scott Gilligan, in reviewing the bill, indicated that, in certain rare instances, a person who is otherwise authorized to control final disposition except for charges of certain crimes may be acquitted of the charges and may "reacquire" control of final disposition and wish to have disinterment and reinterment performed. However, that circumstance implies that the decedent has already been buried; someone has had to assume control of final disposition to have that done. Please review my changed language of that subdivision and created s. 154.30 (2) (i). Please also note that this change has necessitated the renumbering of s. 69.18 (4) (a) 1., the creation of s. 69.18 (4) (a) 1g., and the amendment of s. 69.20 (2) (a) 2. Please review.
- 2. I continue to be concerned about s. 154.30 (2) (b) 2. Attorney Gilligan indicates that it is unnecessary to specify who is to notify the individual of the decedent's death. I'm not entirely sure that is correct, although I suppose a funeral director or crematory authority is motivated to notify the individual; however, I'm sure that there could be circumstances in which that might not happen. However, there is another problem: the two-day "clock" starts running after notification; if that notification can't be made for weeks (if, say, the authorized individual is on a lengthy trip or just can't be found), no disposition of the decedent's body can be made. Do you want to rethink the "whichever is later" provision?

Please let me know if I may provide you with further assistance with regard to this draft. \checkmark

Debora A. Kennedy Managing Attorney Phone: (608) 266–0137

E-mail: debora.kennedy@legis.state.wi.us

DRAFTER'S NOTE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-3104/P3dn DAK:lmk:rs

February 13, 2006

To Representative Kerkman:

I am again providing this bill to you in preliminary form, since a number of changes have been made to it. Among other things, I have renumbered the provisions to be in ch. 154, stats., and I have added provisions concerning distribution of the form by the Department of Health and Family Services, revocation of the authorization, signing of the authorization by a proxy on behalf of the declarant, and a penalty. I did not add the option not to designate a representative, although I would be glad to to do so if you desire it. The following issues arose during this redraft:

- 1. I have modified s. 154.30 (3) (b) 1. Attorney Scott Gilligan, in reviewing the bill, indicated that, in certain rare instances, a person who is otherwise authorized to control final disposition except for charges of certain crimes may be acquitted of the charges and may "reacquire" control of final disposition and wish to have disinterment and reinterment performed. However, that circumstance implies that the decedent has already been buried; someone has had to assume control of final disposition to have that done. Please review my changed language of that subdivision and created s. 154.30 (2) (i). Please also note that this change has necessitated the renumbering of s. 69.18 (4) (a) 1., the creation of s. 69.18 (4) (a) 1g., and the amendment of s. 69.20 (2) (a) 2. Please review.
- 2. I continue to be concerned about s. 154.30 (3) (b) 2. Attorney Gilligan indicates that it is unnecessary to specify who is to notify the individual of the decedent's death. I'm not entirely sure that is correct, although I suppose a funeral director or crematory authority is motivated to notify the individual; however, I'm sure that there could be circumstances in which that might not happen. However, there is another problem: the two-day "clock" starts running after notification; if that notification can't be made for weeks (if, say, the authorized individual is on a lengthy trip or just can't be found), no disposition of the decedent's body can be made. Do you want to rethink the "whichever is later" provision?

Please let me know if I may provide you with further assistance with regard to this draft.

Debora A. Kennedy Managing Attorney Phone: (608) 266-0137

E-mail: debora.kennedy@legis.state.wi.us

Kennedy, Debora

From:

Popp, Sarah

Sent:

Thursday, March 02, 2006 3:00 PM

To:

Kennedy, Debora

Subject:

FW: Scan from a Xerox WorkCentre Pro

Attachments:

Scan001.PDF



Scan001.PDF (699 KB)

Deborah

Attached are hopefully the final changes to LRB3104/P3. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks so much for your help. Sarah

2/2/06 From Sarah: 3104/P3 P. 10 add cometery authorities

Gilligan Law Offices

3734 Eastern Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45226 (513) 871-6332 (513) 871-4749 Fax

T. Scott Gilligan (513) 871-5297 scott@gilliganlegal.com

February 20, 2006

via Fax (414) 453-9860 and Regular Mail

Mark Paget, Executive Director Wisconsin Funeral Directors Association 2300 N. Mayfair Road, Suite 595 Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226-1508

RE:

Dear Mark:

At your request, I reviewed the February 13, 2006 Drafter's Note from the Legislative Reference Bureau on the Control of Disposition Bill. In the Drafter's Note, Debora Kennedy, the Managing Attorney, explained that she had made two changes in the Control of Final Disposition Bill. You have asked us to take a look at those two changes and comment on them.

1. Reacquisition of Control of Final Disposition. In subdivision 154.30(3)(b)1., the Bill takes away the right to control final disposition from an individual who is arrested for specified classes of homicide. We had originally noted that the Bill may want to include a section to restore the control of final disposition to an individual who was later cleared of those charges. Ms. Kennedy has agreed to do that and created new subdivision 154.30(2)(i) to address the restoration of control of final disposition.

I am in full agreement with the language used by Ms. Kennedy on the restoration of control of final disposition. However, I disagree with where she has placed that language in the Bill. As noted above, she created a new subdivision (i) to section 154.30(2). However, please note that Section 154.30(2) is a priority list of who holds the right of disposition. As you can see in the introductory paragraph of 154.30(2) on page 3 of the Bill, the list of who controls the final disposition is in a priority order. Therefore, by creating new subdivision (i) and placing it at the end of the list, the impression is created that a person who has a restored control of final disposition is the last individual on the priority list. For example, if a husband were arrested for first degree intentional homicide and was later cleared of that charge, a question would arise as to whether the husband would be

Gilligan Law Offices

Mark Paget February 20, 2006 Page 2

restored to subdivision (2)(b), which covers the surviving spouse of the decedent, or subdivision (2)(i) which covers an individual cleared of a homicide charge.

To clear up this ambiguity, I would suggest re-designating the new subdivision 154.30(2)(i) as new subdivision 154.30(3)(c). I have created an insert A to show where the new language would be placed on page 6 of the draft Bill.

Disqualification of Missing Relative. Section 154.30(3)(b)2. takes away the control of final disposition from an individual who fails to exercise the control within two days after being notified of the decedent's death or within five (5) days after the decedent's death, whichever is later. As Ms. Kennedy points out, the "whichever is later" provision could create a significant problem if an individual cannot be located.

To address Ms. Kennedy's concerns, I would suggest that we create a new disqualification to address relatives who cannot be located after reasonable effort to do so. I have drafted a new subdivision 3 to disqualify an individual who cannot be located after reasonable efforts to do so. The "reasonable efforts" language would be consistent with subdivisions 154.30(2)(c) and (e).

Ms. Kennedy also raised the concern regarding who has the obligation to notify the individual with the control of the final disposition about the death. That obligation will fall upon the funeral director or any other business or individual who is arranging the final disposition. Under law, it is an actionable tort to interfere with the right of disposition. Therefore, if a funeral director or other business or individual arranges a disposition without the input of the person holding the right of final disposition, they can be sued for violation of that right. For that reason, it is always incumbent on the funeral director to ensure they are dealing with the person holding the control of final disposition.

Mark, if you have any questions regarding the changes we have made, please give me a call.

Sincerely yours,

T. Scott Gilligan

TSG/lab Enclosure

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

AN ACT to renumber 69.18 (4) (a) 1.; to amend 69.20 (2) (a) 2.; to repeal and recreate chapter 154 (title); and to create 69.18 (4) (a) 1g. and subchapter IV of chapter 154 [precedes 154.30] of the statutes; relating to: control of final disposition of certain human remains and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill is drafted in preliminary form. An analysis will be included in a subsequent version.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

- 5 Section 1. 69.18 (4) (a) 1. of the statutes is renumbered 69.18 (4) (a) 1m.
- 6 Section 2. 69.18 (4) (a) 1g. of the statutes is created to read:
- 7 69.18 **(4)** (a) 1g. An individual specified under s. 154.30 (2) (i).
- 8 Section 3. 69.20 (2) (a) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

1	69.20 (2) (a) 2. For a certificate of death, any of the persons specified under s
2	69.18 (4) (a) 1. 1g. to 6. or an individual who is authorized in writing by one of the
3	persons.
4	Section 4. Chapter 154 (title) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:
5	CHAPTER 154
6,	ADVANCE DIRECTIVES
7	SECTION 5. Subchapter IV of chapter 154 [precedes 154.30] of the statutes is
8	created to read:
9	CHAPTER 154
10	SUBCHAPTER IV
11	AUTHORIZATION FOR FINAL DISPOSITION
12	154.30 Control of final disposition of certain human remains. (1)
13	DEFINITIONS. (a) "Authorization for final disposition" means a written, signed
14	document that is acknowledged before a notary public or is witnessed and that is
15	voluntarily executed by a declarant under sub. (8), but is not limited in form or
16	substance to that provided in sub. (8).
. 17	(b) "Credential" has the meaning given in s. 440.01 (2) (a).
18	(c) "Declarant" means an individual who executes an authorization for final
19	disposition.
20_	(d) "Estranged" means being physically and emotionally alienated for a period-
21	of time, at the time of the decedent's death, and clearly demonstrating an absence of
22	due affection, trust, and regard.
23	(e) "Final disposition" means disposition of a decedent's remains, including any
24	of the following:
25	1. Arrangements for a viewing.

1	2. A fulleral ceremony, memorial service, graveside service, or other last rite.
2	3. A burial, cremation and burial, or other disposition, or donation of the
3	decedent's body.
4	(f) "Health care provider" means any person who has a credential to provide
5	health care.
6	(g) "Member of the clergy" has the meaning given in s. 765.002 (1).
7	(h) "Representative" means an individual specifically designated in an
8	authorization for final disposition or, if that individual is unable or unwilling to carry
9	out the declarant's decisions and preferences, a successor representative designated
10	in the authorization for final disposition to do so.
11	(2) Individuals with control of final disposition; order. Except as provided
12	in sub. (3), any of the following, as prioritized in the following order, who is at least
13	18 years old and has not been adjudicated incompetent under ch. 880, may control
14	final disposition, including the location, manner, and conditions of final disposition:
15	(a) A representative of the decedent acting under the decedent's authorization
16	for final disposition that conveys to the representative the control of final disposition.
1.7	(b) The surviving spouse of the decedent.
18	(c) The surviving child of the decedent, unless more than one child of the
19	decedent survives. In such an instance, the majority of the surviving children has
.20	control of the final disposition, except that fewer than the majority of the surviving
21	children may control the final disposition if that minority has used reasonable efforts
22	to notify all other surviving children and is not aware of opposition by the majority
23	to the minority's intended final disposition.

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decedent's body.

1	(d) The surviving parent or parents of the decedent or a surviving parent who
2	is available if the other surviving parent is unavailable after the available surviving
3	parent has made reasonable efforts to locate him or her.
4	(e) The surviving sibling of the decedent, unless more than one sibling of the
5	decedent survives. In such an instance, the majority of the surviving siblings has
6	control of the final disposition, except that fewer than the majority of the surviving
7	siblings may control the final disposition if that minority has used reasonable efforts
8	to notify all other surviving siblings and is not aware of opposition by the majority
9	to the minority's intended final disposition.
10	(f) In descending order, an individual in the class of the next degree of kinship
11	specified in s. 990.001 (16).
12	(g) The guardian of the person, if any, of the decedent.
13	(h) Any individual other than an individual specified under pars. (a) to (g) who
14	is willing to control the final disposition and who attests in writing that he or she has
15	made a good-faith effort, to no avail, to contact the individuals under pars. (a) to (g).
16	(i) An individual specified in sub. (3) (b) 1. for whom charges under sub. (3) (b)
17	1. a. to d. are dismissed or who is found not guilty of the offense. Subject to s. 69.18
18	(4), the control of final disposition under this paragraph, with respect to a decedent
19	for whom disposition has already been practe of his or her remains, is limited, as
20	appropriate, to any of the following:
21	1. A funeral ceremony, memorial service, graveside service, or other last rite.
22	2. Disinterment.
23	3. Reinterment, cremation and reinterment, or other disposition of the

to do so.

1	(3) EXCEPTIONS. (a) All of the following are exceptions to any control conferred
2	under sub. (2):
3	1. The disposition of any unrevoked anatomical gift made by the deceden
4	under s. 157.06 (2) or made by an individual other than the decedent under s. 157.06
5	(3) or (4).
6	2. Any power or duty of a coroner, medical examiner, or other physician licensed
7	to perform autopsies with respect to the reporting of certain deaths, performance of
8	autopsies, and inquests under ch. 979.
9	(b) None of the following is authorized under sub. (2) to control the final
10	disposition:
11	1. Except as provided in sub. (2) (i), an individual who is otherwise authorized
12	to control final disposition under the order of priority of individuals specified in sub.
13	(2) but who has been charged with any of the following in connection with the
14	decedent's death and the charges are known to the funeral director or crematory
15	authority:
16	a. First-degree intentional homicide under s. 940.01 (1).
17	b. First-degree reckless homicide under s. 940.02.
18	c. Second-degree intentional homicide under s. 940.05.
19	d. Second-degree reckless homicide under s. 940.06.
20	2. An individual who is otherwise authorized to control final disposition under
21	the order of priority of individuals specified in sub. (2) but who fails to exercise this
22	authorization within 2 days after he or she is notified of the decedent's death or
23	within 5 days after the decedent's death, whichever is later.
24	4.8. The decedent's spouse, if an action under ch. 767 to terminate the marriage
25	of the spouse and the decedent was pending at the time of the decedent's death.
	3. An individual who is otherwise authorized to control final disposition under the order of priority of individuals specified in

1	$\mathcal{F}_{m{k}}$. An individual for whom a determination is made under by the probate court
2	under par. (c) 2. b. that the individual and the decedent were estranged at the time
3	of death. (C) INSERT A (next page)
4	If the individuals specified in sub. (2) are unable to agree on the final (d)
5	disposition, the probate court that has jurisdiction for the county in which the
6	decedent resided at the time of his or her death may designate an individual as most
7	fit and appropriate to control the final disposition. All of the following apply to a
8	designation made under this paragraph:
9	1. After the decedent's death, a petition regarding control of the final
10	disposition shall be filed with the probate court by any of the following:
11	a. A relative of the decedent.
12	b. An individual seeking control of the final disposition who claims a closer
13	personal relationship to the decedent than the decedent's next of kin, who has lived
14	with the decedent, and who was not in the employ of the decedent or the decedent's
15	family.
16	c. If 2 or more individuals who are otherwise authorized to control the final
17	disposition under the order of priority of individuals specified in sub. (2) cannot, by
18	majority vote, decide concerning the final disposition, any of those individuals or the
19	funeral director or crematory authority that possesses the decedent's remains.
20	2. The probate court may consider all of the following:
21	a. The reasonableness and practicality of the proposed final disposition.
22	b. The degree of the personal relationship between the decedent and each of the
23	individuals claiming the right of final disposition, including whether the decedent
24	was estranged from any of the individuals.

INSERT A

- (c) If an individual specified in sub. (3) (b) 1. has the charges under sub. (3) (b) 1. a. to d. dismissed or is found not guilty of the offense, control of final disposition shall be restored to such individual. Subject to s. 69.18 (4), the control of final disposition under this paragraph, with respect to a decedent for whom disposition has already been made of his or her remains, is limited, as appropriate, to any of the following:
 - 1. A funeral ceremony, memorial service, graveside service, or other last rite.
 - 2. Disinterment.

 Reinterment, cremation and reinterment, or other disposition of the decedent's body.

in Sub. (3) (b)1.

- c. Except as provided in subd. 3., the desires of the individual or individuals who are ready, able, and willing to pay the cost of the final disposition.
 - d. The express written desires of the decedent.
- e. The degree to which any proposed final disposition would permit maximum participation by family members, friends, and others who wish to pay final respects to the decedent.
- 3. An individual's payment or agreement to pay for all or part of the costs of final disposition, or the fact that an individual is the personal representative of the decedent, does not, by itself, provide the individual any greater opportunity to control the final disposition than the individual otherwise has under this section.
- (4) DECLINING TO EXERCISE CONTROL OR RESIGNING CONTROL. An individual who is otherwise authorized to control final disposition under the order of priority of individuals specified in sub. (2) or who is designated under sub. (3) (c) may accept the control, may decline to exercise the control, or may, after accepting the control, resign it.
- (5) LIABILITY OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR OR CREMATORY AUTHORITY. (a) If inability to agree exists among any individuals, as specified in sub. (3) (c) (intro.), no funeral director or crematory authority is liable for his or her refusal to accept the decedent's remains, to inter or otherwise dispose of the decedent's remains, or to complete the arrangements for the final disposition unless specifically directed to do so under an order of the probate court or unless the individuals in disagreement present the funeral director or crematory authority with a written agreement, signed by the individuals, that specifies the final disposition.
- (b) A funeral director or crematory authority that retains the remains of a decedent for final disposition before individuals specified in sub. (3) (c) (intro.) reach

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- agreement or before the probate court makes a final decision under sub. (3) (c) may embalm or refrigerate and shelter the remains while awaiting the agreement or the probate court's decision and may add the cost of embalming or refrigeration and shelter, as appropriate, to the final disposition costs.
- (c) If a funeral director or crematory authority files a petition under sub. (3) (c) 1., the funeral director or crematory authority may add to the cost of final disposition reasonable legal fees and costs associated with the court's review of the petition.
- (d) This subsection may not be construed to require or otherwise impose a duty upon a funeral director or crematory authority to file a petition under sub. (3) (c) 1., and a funeral director or crematory authority may not be held criminally or civilly liable for failing or omitting to file the petition.
- (e) In the absence of written notice to the contrary from an individual who claims control of the final disposition because of precedence under the order of priority of individuals specified under sub. (2), no funeral director or crematory authority, who relies in good faith on instructions concerning the final disposition from another individual who first claims control of the final disposition but has less precedence under the order of priority of individuals specified in sub. (2), and who acts or omits to act in accordance with these instructions, is civilly or criminally liable or may be found guilty of unprofessional conduct for the action or omission.
- (6) LIABILITY FOR COSTS OF FINAL DISPOSITION. (a) Liability for the reasonable costs of the final disposition is as follows:
 - 1. From the decedent's estate, as specified under s. 859.25 (1).
- 2. Except as provided in par. (b), from the individual or individuals other than a funeral director or crematory authority exercising control of final disposition, for any claims remaining after payment is made under subd. 1.

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- (b) If an individual who first exercises control of final disposition subsequently resigns that control under sub. (4) before completion, any reasonable costs of the final disposition that are encumbered by the individual before resigning and that are not paid under par. (a) 1. are the liability of the individual.

 (7) JURISDICTION. The probate court for the county in which the decedent last
- (7) JURISDICTION. The probate court for the county in which the decedent last resided has exclusive jurisdiction over matters that arise under this section.
- (8) AUTHORIZATION FOR FINAL DISPOSITION. (a) An individual who is of sound mind and has attained age 18 may voluntarily execute an authorization for final disposition, which shall take effect on the date of execution. An individual for whom an adjudication of incompetence and appointment of a guardian of the person is in effect under ch. 880 is presumed not to be of sound mind for purposes of this subsection.
- (b) An authorization for final disposition may express the declarant's special directions, instructions concerning religious observances, and suggestions concerning the source of funds for any of the following:
 - 1. Arrangements for a viewing.
 - 2. Funeral ceremony, memorial service, graveside service, or other last rite.
- 3. Burial, cremation and burial, or other disposition, or donation of the declarant's body after death.
- (c) An authorization for final disposition authorizes a representative and one or more named successor representatives to carry out the directions, instructions, and suggestions of the declarant, as expressed in the declarant's authorization for final disposition.
- (d) An authorization for final disposition shall meet all of the following requirements:

- 1. List the name and last-known address, as of the date of execution of the authorization for final disposition, of each representative and each successor representative named, and be signed by each representative and each successor representative named.
- 2. Be signed and dated by the declarant, with the signature witnessed by 2 witnesses who each have attained age 18 and who are not related by blood, marriage, or adoption to the declarant, or acknowledged before a notary public. If the declarant is physically unable to sign an authorization for final disposition, the authorization shall be signed in the declarant's name by an individual at the declarant's express direction and in his or her presence; such a proxy signing shall take place or be acknowledged by the declarant in the presence of 2 witnesses or a notary public.
- (e) No health care provider, funeral director, crematory authority, employee of a funeral director or crematory authority, or member of the clergy may serve as a representative under the requirements of this subsection unless he or she is related to the declarant by blood, marriage, or adoption.
- (f) The department shall prepare and provide copies of the authorization for final disposition form and accompanying information for distribution in quantities to funeral directors, crematory authorities, hospitals, nursing homes, county clerks, and local bar associations and individually to private persons. The department shall include, in information accompanying the authorization for final disposition form, at least the statutory definitions of terms used in the form, a statement explaining that valid witnesses acting in good faith are statutorily immune from civil or criminal liability, and an instruction to potential declarants to read and understand the information before completing the form. The department may charge a reasonable fee for the cost of preparation and distribution. The authorization for final

disposition form distributed by the department shall be easy to read, in not less than 10-point type, and in the following form:

AUTHORIZATION FOR FINAL DISPOSITION

	ACTIONIZATION FOR FINAL DISPOSITION
3	I, (print name and address), being of sound mind, willfully and voluntarily
4	make known by this document my desire that, upon my death, the final disposition
- 5	of my remains be under the control of my representative under the requirements of
6	section 154.30, Wisconsin statutes, and, with respect to that final disposition only,
7	I hereby appoint the representative and any successor representative named in this
8	document. All decisions made by my representative or any successor representative
9	with respect to the final disposition of my remains are binding.
10	Name of representative
11	Address
12	Telephone number
13	If my representative dies, becomes incapacitated, resigns, refuses to act, ceases
14	to be qualified, or cannot be located within the time necessary to control the final
15	disposition of my remains, I hereby appoint the following individuals, each to act
16	alone and successively, in the order specified, to serve as my successor
17	representative:
18	Name of first successor representative
19	Address
20	Telephone number
21	2. Name of second successor representative
22	Address
23	Telephone number
24	Suggested special directions

1	Suggested	INSTRUCTIONS	CONCERNING	RELIGIOUS
2	OBSERVANCES	•••••		*********
3	Suggested sour	CE OF FUNDS FOR IMPLEME	NTING FINAL DISPOSITION	DIRECTIONS AND
4	INSTRUCTIONS			
5	This authorizati	on becomes effective up	on my death.	
6	I hereby revoke	any prior authorization	for final disposition th	at I may have
7	signed before the date	that this document is	signed.	
8	I hereby agree th	nat any funeral director	or crematory authority	y that receives
9	a copy of this docume	nt may act under it. A	any modification or rev	ocation of this
10	document is not effect	tive as to a funeral dire	ctor or crematory auth	ority until the
11	funeral director or cre	matory authority receiv	es actual notice of the n	nodification or
12	revocation. No funer	al director or crematory	y authority may be lial	ole because of
13	reliance on a copy of the	nis document.		
14	The representa	tive and any succes	ssor representative,	by accepting
15	appointment under th	is document, assume tl	he powers and duties s	specified for a
16	representative under s	section 154.30, Wisconsi	n statutes, including li	ability for the
17	reasonable costs of the	final disposition of my r	remains, if the assets of	my estate are
18	insufficient to pay for t	these costs.		
19	Signed this	day of		
20	Signature of decla	arant		**************
21	I hereby accept	appointment as repre	esentative for the con	itrol of final
22	disposition of the decla	rant's remains.		
23	Signed this	day of	······	
24	Signature of repre	sentative	***************************************	

1	I hereby accept appointment as successor representative for the control of final		
2	disposition of the declarant's remains.		
3	Signed thisday of		
4	Signature of first successor representative		
5	Signed thisday of		
6	Signature of second successor representative		
7			
8	I attest that the declarant signed or acknowledged this authorization for final		
9	disposition in my presence and that the declarant appears to be of sound mind and		
10	not subject to duress, fraud, or undue influence. I further attest that I am not the		
11	representative or the successor representative appointed under this document, that		
12	I am aged at least 18, and that I am not related to the declarant by blood, marriage		
13	or adoption.		
14	Witness (print name)		
15	Signature		
16	Address		
17	Date		
18			
19	Witness (print name)		
-20	Signature		
21	Address		
22	Date		
23			
24	State of Wisconsin		
25	County of		

1	On (date) before me personally appeared
2	(name of declarant), known to me or
3	satisfactorily proven to be the individual whose name is specified in this document
4	as the declarant and who has acknowledged that he or she executed the document
5	for the purposes expressed in it. I attest that the declarant appears to be of sound
6	mind and not subject to duress, fraud, or undue influence.
7	Notary public
8	My commission expires
9	(9) REVOCATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR FINAL DISPOSITION. A declarant may
0	revoke an authorization for final disposition at any time by any of the following
1	methods:
2	(a) Cancelling, defacing, obliterating, burning, tearing, or otherwise destroying
3	the authorization for final disposition or directing some other person to cancel,
4	deface, obliterate, burn, tear, or otherwise destroy the authorization for final
5	disposition in the presence of the declarant.
6	(b) Revoking in writing the authorization for final disposition. The declarant
7	shall sign and date any written revocation under this subsection.
8	(c) Executing a subsequent authorization for final disposition.
9	(10) PENALTY. Any person who intentionally conceals, cancels, defaces,
)_	obliterates, or damages the authorization for final disposition of another without the
Į.	declarant's consent may be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than
2	30 days or both.

20.