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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION
2627

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August 28, 2007

BUSINESS
LICENSING DIVISION

2007 AUG 31 PM 3:59

RECEIVED

Michelle T. Smey
Administrative Officer, State Board of Funeral Directors
P. O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Reference No. 16A-4815 (Preneed funeral arrangements)

Dear Ms. Smey,

As a member of the board of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, I want to state my support of Proposed § 13.228 which would govern customer transfers of preneed funds to another funeral director or funeral entity.

I would like to see the language modified to include all currently existing preneed / prepaid funeral arrangements, so that current Pennsylvania residents who have purchased preneed funerals will be free to move their contracts to another funeral director.

I would also like to see the language modified to allow Pennsylvania residents to request refunds of preneed/prepaid funeral arrangements, including any interest accrued.

Residents may move within the state and desire a funeral director closer to their homes. They may change their minds about what sort of funeral they want. In either situation, the language of this bill should enable Pennsylvania residents to either transfer their funds or receive their funds including interest.

I consider contract provisions which are added in §13.227 to be totally contrary to the purpose and spirit of a prepaid / preneed contract. If a funeral is prepaid, no additional charges should be allowed for those contracted services, regardless of what the funeral home's current rates have become since the contract.

I would like the language modified to state that a preneed / prepaid contract shall be considered a contract for specified services at a specified price which cannot be altered at the time of need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lois Wickstrom
Member, Board of Directors, Funeral Consumers Alliance of Greater Philadelphia