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From: trt100@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2009 11:17 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Comments on regulation 4816 by the State Board of Funeral Directors
Attachments: Notes_on_Funeral_regulation_16A-4816.doc

Ms. Kim Kaufman

I have attached my comments on Regulation 4816 proposed by the State Board of Funeral Directors.

I suggest these comments for your consideration in reviewing this regulation.

Thank you

Thomas R. Tirney, Ph.D.

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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November 9, 2009

Ms. Kim Kaufman, Executive Director,
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Final-Form Regulations - 16A-4816 Preneed Funeral Arrangements

Dear Ms. Kaufman:

I do not understand this new proposed regulation. On October 24, IRRC disapproved Regulation 16A-4815. Many of the same ideas and regulation are again proposed in 16A-4816.

It seems that the intent of this regulation is similar if not the same as 16A-4815. That is to say it will preclude a person contracting for merchandise separate from the funeral services. This is like legislating that only Eye Doctors can sell eye glasses.

Regulation 16A-4816 seems to take away the right of a person to select an entity to supply the merchandise for his or her funeral. I agree that funeral "*services*" should be under the supervision of a licensed funeral director but the purchase of merchandise either at-need or pre-need should be the right of the person and not tied to a funeral director.

Is it the intent of the State Board of Funeral Directors to have the funeral industry in PA monopolize everything to do with funerals?

This regulation (16A-4816) as well as the regulation that the IRRC disapproved would restrict the customer from contracting for merchandise with a person or entity other than a funeral director. Right now a person can contract for merchandise with a non-funeral director entity and set up services with a funeral director

This regulation (16A-4816) would end that kind of choice and limit the ability of the person to shop for the "best" merchandise prices.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Tirney, Ph.D.
President, Arlington Heritage Group