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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

#2655

February 26, 2008

John J. Jewett, Regulatory Analyst
Independent Regulatory and Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Indigent Funerals

Dear John:

At your request, we collected some information regarding other states' payments for indigent burials. The chart is attached for your review.

Considering the payments made by New Jersey, New York and even West Virginia, it may be that Pennsylvania should consider raising the amount that the state is willing to pay. In the alternative, perhaps the amount contributed by the family could be raised. As it is in Pennsylvania, recipients are fairly well restricted to cremation, due to the cost of opening graves.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen K. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kathleen K. Ryan, Esquire
General Counsel, PFDA

STATES WELFARE FUNERAL REIMBURSEMENT
(Highest to Lowest)

	State Reimbursement	Family/Friends/Agency Contributions Allowed	Maximum Funeral Bill Allowed	Services/Merchandise FD Must Provide to Receive Reimbursement	Proposed by FDs State Association
New Jersey	(a) Stillborn to (6) days old = \$1,123/funeral + \$262 burial (b) (1) week – (2) years old = \$1,684 funeral + \$393 burial (c) Adult (over 2 yrs old) = \$2,246 funeral + \$524 burial	\$785 \$1,178 \$1,570			
Connecticut	\$1,800	\$2,800			
North Dakota	County by county basis – ranges from \$1,500 to > \$3,000; most counties pay less for cremation -- @\$1,000. Difficult to qualify in some counties – some counties go down line of relatives to discover assets or ability to borrow	Most counties do not allow over their amount – this available \$ may be deducted from reimbursement			
West Virginia	\$1,250 Requires cloth or mole skin covered casket	\$1,200			
Massachusetts	\$1,100	\$1,400	\$1,500	Long list of services, merchandise and cash advances	\$2500 for funeral svcs w/cash advances excluded; based on belief that most fys could come up with \$1400 if needed; fy selects what they want from FH's GPL
New York	Each county sets its own rate – ranges from \$800 (NYC) to \$2,300 (upstate)	Some counties allow supplements			
Pennsylvania	\$750 --- which includes \$600 for goods & services, and \$150 for interment, if there are no resources that reduce the payment	\$750 – for items not included in the minimum standards for burial &/or cremation. Anything over that amount gets deducted from the State reimbursement			

Indiana	\$600 funeral expenses + \$400 for cemetery expenses on Medicaid clients; any assets above a certain amount reduce their payment. Indigents not on Medicaid are responsibility of the Township Trustee – generally pay as little as they can on a case by case basis.	Family & friends can contribute another \$1,750 & \$400			
Michigan	<i>With Service:</i> \$700/burial & \$600/cremation (service = family memorial svc w/limited visitation & a funeral) <i>No Service:</i> \$465/direct burial & \$365/direct cremation (Difference based on \$100 payment for burial vault)	\$4,000			
Kansas	\$680	\$1,820	\$2,500 excluding vault or cemetery expenses		
South Dakota	Varies from county to county, ranging from \$500 - \$3,725. Some counties differentiate between adult & child; allow additional amounts for outside container, cemetery and other.				
Oklahoma	77 counties; in 2 largest counties they pay \$285/cremation; if deceased had a cemetery lot, they pay \$750 of which \$500 goes to FH & \$250 to cemetery. Remaining counties underfunded & poor so FD either does direct burial with the county opening & closing for free or the FD absorbs cost and has body cremated				
Montana	Each of the 56 counties different, ranging from 0-\$1,200				
Maine	Each municipality sets its own rate				
North Carolina	None from state; some counties occasionally provide small amount				
Kentucky	None				
Tennessee	None				