

1 AN ACT relating to cremation of dead bodies.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 72.450 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) (a) A coroner who has possession of a dead body or a part thereof shall make a
5 bona fide attempt ***of at least six (6) months*** to notify the spouse, if any, or
6 next of kin of the decedent's death. In the event the coroner is unable to locate
7 the spouse, if any, or next of kin, he or she may cause the body to be buried ***or***
8 ***cremated*** at the expense of the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or
9 urban-county government, whichever is appropriate.

10 (b) ***The decision between burial or cremation shall be made by the coroner,***
11 ***fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-county government***
12 ***that has responsibility for the expense pursuant to this subsection.***

13 (c) ***If a fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-county***
14 ***government has responsibility for the expense pursuant to this subsection, it***
15 ***shall:***

16 ***1. Consult with the local county coroner before it makes the decision***
17 ***between burial and cremation; and***

18 ***2. If the dead body or a part thereof is known to be of Jewish descent,***
19 ***contact the Chabad of the Bluegrass or any successor entity to inquire***
20 ***if it wants to pay for the burial expense.***

21 (2) In the event the body is buried ***or cremated*** at public expense, the coroner shall take
22 possession of all money or other property found on or belonging to the decedent
23 and shall deliver same to the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-
24 county government, whichever is appropriate. Any money or other property found
25 on the body of the decedent or belonging to him or her shall be delivered by the
26 coroner to the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-county
27 government, whichever is appropriate, to help defray burial ***or cremation*** expenses.

1 Any excess funds shall escheat to such governmental agency one (1) year
2 thereafter.

3 (3) In lieu of having an unclaimed body buried or cremated at public expense, the
4 coroner may deliver such body or part thereof to a state medical school in
5 accordance with the provisions of KRS 311.300 to 311.350.