

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 551**

A bill to amend 1998 PA 386, entitled "Estates and protected individuals code," by amending sections 1104, 2801, 2803, 2807, 3206, 3207, 3209, 3614, and 3701 (MCL 700.1104, 700.2801, 700.2803, 700.2807, 700.3206, 700.3207, 700.3209, 700.3614, and 700.3701), section 1104 as amended by 2009 PA 46, section 2803 as amended by 2012 PA 173, section 2807 as amended by 2000 PA 54, sections 3206 and 3209 as amended by 2012 PA 63, section 3207 as amended by 2010 PA 325, and sections 3614 and 3701 as amended by 2006 PA 299, and by adding sections 3206a and 3206b; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

- 1           Sec. 1104. As used in this act:
- 2           (a) "Environmental law" means a federal, state, or local law,
- 3 rule, regulation, or ordinance that relates to the protection of

1 the environment or human health.

2 (b) "Estate" includes the property of the decedent, trust, or  
3 other person whose affairs are subject to this act as the property  
4 is originally constituted and as it exists throughout  
5 administration. Estate also includes the rights described in  
6 sections 3805, 3922, and 7606 to collect from others amounts  
7 necessary to pay claims, allowances, and taxes.

8 (c) "Exempt property" means property of a decedent's estate  
9 that is described in section 2404.

10 (d) "Family allowance" means the allowance prescribed in  
11 section 2403.

12 (e) "Fiduciary" includes, but is not limited to, a personal  
13 representative, **FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE**, guardian, conservator,  
14 trustee, plenary guardian, partial guardian, and successor  
15 fiduciary.

16 (f) "Financial institution" means an organization authorized  
17 to do business under state or federal laws relating to a financial  
18 institution and includes, but is not limited to, a bank, trust  
19 company, savings bank, building and loan association, savings and  
20 loan company or association, credit union, insurance company, and  
21 entity that offers mutual fund, securities brokerage, money market,  
22 or retail investment accounts.

23 (g) "Foreign personal representative" means a personal  
24 representative appointed by another jurisdiction.

25 (h) "Formal proceedings" means proceedings conducted before a  
26 judge with notice to interested persons.

27 (i) "Funeral establishment" means that term as defined in

1 section 1801 of the occupational code, 1980 PA 299, MCL 339.1801,  
2 and the owners, employees, and agents of the funeral establishment.

3 (J) "FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED TO  
4 HAVE THE RIGHT AND POWER TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT FUNERAL  
5 ARRANGEMENTS AND THE HANDLING, DISPOSITION, OR DISINTERMENT OF A  
6 DECEDENT'S BODY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, DECISIONS ABOUT  
7 CREMATION, AND THE RIGHT TO POSSESS CREMATED REMAINS OF THE  
8 DECEDENT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 3206.

9 (K) "FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION" MEANS A WRITTEN  
10 DOCUMENT EXECUTED AND WITH THE EFFECT AS DESCRIBED IN SECTIONS 3206  
11 TO 3206B.

12 (I) ~~(j)~~—"General personal representative" means a personal  
13 representative other than a special personal representative.

14 (M) ~~(k)~~—"Governing instrument" means a deed; will; trust;  
15 **FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION**; insurance or annuity policy;  
16 account with POD designation; security registered in beneficiary  
17 form (TOD); pension, profit-sharing, retirement, or similar benefit  
18 plan; instrument creating or exercising a power of appointment or a  
19 power of attorney; or dispositive, appointive, or nominative  
20 instrument of any similar type.

21 (N) ~~(l)~~—"Guardian" means a person who has qualified as a  
22 guardian of a minor or a legally incapacitated individual under a  
23 parental or spousal nomination or a court appointment and includes  
24 a limited guardian as described in sections 5205, 5206, and 5306.  
25 Guardian does not include a guardian ad litem.

26 (O) ~~(m)~~—"Hazardous substance" means a substance defined as  
27 hazardous or toxic or otherwise regulated by an environmental law.

1           (P) ~~(n)~~—"Heir" means, except as controlled by section 2720, a  
2 person, including the surviving spouse or the state, that is  
3 entitled under the statutes of intestate succession to a decedent's  
4 property.

5           (Q) ~~(e)~~—"Homestead allowance" means the allowance prescribed  
6 in section 2402.

7           Sec. 2801. (1) An individual who is divorced from the decedent  
8 or whose marriage to the decedent has been annulled is not a  
9 surviving spouse unless, by virtue of a subsequent marriage, he or  
10 she is married to the decedent at the time of death. A decree of  
11 separation that does not terminate the status of husband and wife  
12 is not a divorce for purposes of this section.

13           (2) For purposes of parts 1 to 4 of this article and of  
14 section 3203, a surviving spouse does not include any of the  
15 following:

16           (a) An individual who obtains or consents to a final decree or  
17 judgment of divorce from the decedent or an annulment of their  
18 marriage, which decree or judgment is not recognized as valid in  
19 this state, unless they subsequently participate in a marriage  
20 ceremony purporting to marry each to the other or live together as  
21 husband and wife.

22           (b) An individual who, following an invalid decree or judgment  
23 of divorce or annulment obtained by the decedent, participates in a  
24 marriage ceremony with a third individual.

25           (c) An individual who was a party to a valid proceeding  
26 concluded by an order purporting to terminate all marital property  
27 rights.

1 (d) An individual who, at the time of the decedent's death, is  
2 living in a bigamous relationship with another individual.

3 (e) An individual who did any of the following for 1 year or  
4 more before the death of the deceased person:

5 (i) Was willfully absent from the decedent spouse.

6 (ii) Deserted the decedent spouse.

7 (iii) Willfully neglected or refused to provide support for  
8 the decedent spouse if required to do so by law.

9 (3) FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 3206, A SURVIVING SPOUSE DOES NOT  
10 INCLUDE EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:

11 (A) AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2).

12 (B) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A PARTY TO A DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT  
13 PROCEEDING WITH THE DECEDENT AT THE TIME OF THE DECEDENT'S DEATH.

14 Sec. 2803. (1) An individual who feloniously and intentionally  
15 kills or who is convicted of committing abuse, neglect, or  
16 exploitation with respect to the decedent forfeits all benefits  
17 under this article with respect to the decedent's estate, including  
18 an intestate share, an elective share, an omitted spouse's or  
19 child's share, a homestead allowance, a family allowance, and  
20 exempt property. If the decedent died intestate, the decedent's  
21 intestate estate passes as if the killer or felon disclaimed his or  
22 her intestate share.

23 (2) The felonious and intentional killing or the conviction of  
24 the felon for the abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the decedent  
25 does all of the following:

26 (a) Revokes all of the following that are revocable:

27 (i) Disposition or appointment of property made by the

1 decedent to the killer or felon in a governing instrument.

2 (ii) Provision in a governing instrument conferring a general  
3 or nongeneral power of appointment on the killer or felon.

4 (iii) Nomination of the killer or felon in a governing  
5 instrument, nominating or appointing the killer or felon to serve  
6 in a fiduciary or representative capacity, including a personal  
7 representative, executor, **FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE**, trustee, or  
8 agent.

9 (b) Severs the interests of the decedent and killer or felon  
10 in property held by them at the time of the killing, abuse,  
11 neglect, or exploitation as joint tenants with the right of  
12 survivorship, transforming the interests of the decedent and killer  
13 or felon into tenancies in common.

14 (C) **BARS THE KILLER OR FELON FROM EXERCISING A POWER UNDER**  
15 **SECTION 3206(1).**

16 (3) A severance under subsection (2)(b) does not affect a  
17 third party interest in property acquired for value and in good  
18 faith reliance on an apparent title by survivorship in the killer  
19 or felon unless a writing declaring the severance has been noted,  
20 registered, filed, or recorded in records appropriate to the kind  
21 and location of the property that are relied ~~upon,~~ **ON**, in the  
22 ordinary course of transactions involving that type of property, as  
23 evidence of ownership.

24 (4) A provision of a governing instrument is given effect as  
25 if the killer or felon disclaimed all provisions revoked by this  
26 section or, ~~in the case of~~ **FOR** a revoked nomination in a fiduciary  
27 or representative capacity, as if the killer or felon predeceased

1 the decedent.

2 (5) A killer's or felon's wrongful acquisition of property or  
3 interest not covered by this section ~~shall~~**MUST** be treated in  
4 accordance with the principle that a killer or felon cannot profit  
5 from his or her wrong.

6 (6) After all right to appeal has been exhausted, a judgment  
7 of conviction establishing criminal accountability for the  
8 felonious and intentional killing or the abuse, neglect, or  
9 exploitation of the decedent conclusively establishes the convicted  
10 individual as the decedent's killer or as a felon, as applicable,  
11 for purposes of this section. With respect to a claim of felonious  
12 and intentional killing, in the absence of a conviction, the court,  
13 ~~upon~~**ON** the petition of an interested person, shall determine  
14 whether, under the preponderance of evidence standard, the  
15 individual would be found criminally accountable for the felonious  
16 and intentional killing of the decedent. If the court determines  
17 that, under that standard, the individual would be found criminally  
18 accountable for the felonious and intentional killing of the  
19 decedent, the determination conclusively establishes ~~that~~**THE**  
20 individual as the decedent's killer for purposes of this section.

21 (7) This section does not apply if the forfeiture, revocation,  
22 or severance would occur because of abuse, neglect, or exploitation  
23 and the decedent executed a governing instrument after the date of  
24 the conviction expressing a specific intent to allow the felon to  
25 inherit or otherwise receive the estate or property of the  
26 decedent.

27 Sec. 2807. (1) Except as provided by the express terms of a

1 governing instrument, court order, or contract relating to the  
2 division of the marital estate made between the divorced  
3 individuals before or after the marriage, divorce, or annulment,  
4 the divorce or annulment of a marriage does all of the following:

5 (a) Revokes all of the following that are revocable:

6 (i) A disposition or appointment of property made by a  
7 divorced individual to his or her former spouse in a governing  
8 instrument and a disposition or appointment created by law or in a  
9 governing instrument to a relative of the divorced individual's  
10 former spouse.

11 (ii) A provision in a governing instrument conferring a  
12 general or nongeneral power of appointment on the divorced  
13 individual's former spouse or on a relative of the divorced  
14 individual's former spouse.

15 (iii) A nomination in a governing instrument, nominating a  
16 divorced individual's former spouse or a relative of the divorced  
17 individual's former spouse to serve in a fiduciary or  
18 representative capacity, including, but not limited to, a personal  
19 representative, executor, **FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE**, trustee,  
20 conservator, agent, or guardian.

21 (b) Severs the interests of the former spouses in property  
22 held by them at the time of the divorce or annulment as joint  
23 tenants with the right of survivorship, transforming the interests  
24 of the former spouses into tenancies in common.

25 **(C) BARS THE FORMER SPOUSE FROM EXERCISING A POWER UNDER**  
26 **SECTION 3206(1).**

27 (2) A severance under subsection (1)(b) does not affect a



1 third-party interest in property acquired for value and in good  
 2 faith reliance on an apparent title by survivorship in the survivor  
 3 of the former spouses unless a writing declaring the severance has  
 4 been noted, registered, filed, or recorded in records appropriate  
 5 to the kind and location of the property that are relied upon, ~~upon,~~ **ON,**  
 6 in the ordinary course of transactions involving that type of  
 7 property, as evidence of ownership.

8 (3) Each provision of a governing instrument is given effect  
 9 as if the former spouse and relatives of the former spouse  
 10 disclaimed all provisions revoked by this section or, ~~in the case~~  
 11 ~~of~~ **FOR** a revoked nomination in a fiduciary or representative  
 12 capacity, as if the former spouse and relatives of the former  
 13 spouse died immediately before the divorce or annulment.

14 (4) Each provision revoked solely by this section is revived  
 15 by the divorced individual's remarriage to the former spouse or by  
 16 a nullification of the divorce or annulment.

17 (5) No change of circumstances other than as described in this  
 18 section and in sections 2803 to 2805, 2808, and 2809 causes a  
 19 revocation.

20 Sec. 3206. (1) Subject to 1953 PA 181, MCL 52.201 to 52.216,  
 21 part 28 and article 10 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL  
 22 333.2801 to 333.2899 and 333.10101 to 333.11101, and subsection  
 23 ~~(11),~~ **(12), A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATED UNDER SUBSECTION**  
 24 **(2),** a person with priority under subsections ~~(2) to (4)~~ **(3) TO (5)**  
 25 or **A PERSON** acting under subsection ~~(5),~~ **(6), (7), or (8), OR (9)**  
 26 is presumed to have the right and power to make decisions about  
 27 funeral arrangements and the handling, disposition, or disinterment

1 of a decedent's body, including, but not limited to, decisions  
2 about cremation, and the right to **RETRIEVE FROM THE FUNERAL**  
3 **ESTABLISHMENT AND** possess cremated remains of the decedent  
4 **IMMEDIATELY AFTER CREMATION**. The handling, disposition, or  
5 disinterment of a body ~~shall~~**MUST** be under the supervision of a  
6 person licensed to practice mortuary science in this state.

7 (2) **EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION AND**  
8 **SUBJECT TO THE PRIORITY IN SUBSECTION (3), AN INDIVIDUAL 18 YEARS**  
9 **OF AGE OR OLDER WHO IS OF SOUND MIND AT THE TIME A FUNERAL**  
10 **REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION IS MADE MAY DESIGNATE IN WRITING ANOTHER**  
11 **INDIVIDUAL WHO IS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND WHO IS OF SOUND MIND**  
12 **TO HAVE THE RIGHTS AND POWERS UNDER SUBSECTION (1). ALL OF THE**  
13 **FOLLOWING APPLY TO A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION UNDER THIS**  
14 **SUBSECTION:**

15 (A) **FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION AND SECTIONS 3206A AND 3206B,**  
16 **AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NAMED IN A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION**  
17 **TO HAVE THE RIGHTS AND POWERS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) IS KNOWN**  
18 **AS A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE AND AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MAKES A FUNERAL**  
19 **REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION IS KNOWN AS A DECLARANT.**

20 (B) **A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION**  
21 **MUST BE IN WRITING, DATED, AND SIGNED VOLUNTARILY BY THE DECLARANT**  
22 **OR SIGNED BY A NOTARY PUBLIC ON THE DECLARANT'S BEHALF UNDER**  
23 **SECTION 33 OF THE MICHIGAN NOTARY PUBLIC ACT, 2003 PA 238, MCL**  
24 **55.293. A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE**  
25 **DECLARANT'S WILL, PATIENT ADVOCATE DESIGNATION, OR OTHER WRITING.**  
26 **IF A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION IS CONTAINED IN AN**  
27 **INDIVIDUAL'S WILL, THE WILL IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE ADMITTED TO**

1 PROBATE FOR THE FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION TO BE VALID. A  
2 FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION MUST BE 1 OR BOTH OF THE  
3 FOLLOWING:

4 (i) SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF AND SIGNED BY 2 WITNESSES. A  
5 WITNESS UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE THE FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE OR  
6 AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION (C) (ii) TO (iv). A WITNESS  
7 SHALL NOT SIGN THE FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION UNLESS THE  
8 DECLARANT APPEARS TO BE OF SOUND MIND AND UNDER NO DURESS, FRAUD,  
9 OR UNDUE INFLUENCE.

10 (ii) ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE DECLARANT BEFORE A NOTARY PUBLIC, WHO  
11 ENDORSES ON THE FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION A CERTIFICATE OF  
12 THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND THE TRUE DATE OF TAKING THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

13 (C) THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS MAY NOT ACT AS A FUNERAL  
14 REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE DECLARANT UNLESS THE INDIVIDUAL IS THE  
15 SURVIVING SPOUSE OR IS A RELATIVE OF THE DECLARANT:

16 (i) AN OFFICER, PARTNER, MEMBER, SHAREHOLDER, OWNER,  
17 REPRESENTATIVE, OR EMPLOYEE OF A FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT THAT WILL  
18 PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE DECLARANT.

19 (ii) A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, OR AN EMPLOYEE OF OR VOLUNTEER AT  
20 A HEALTH FACILITY OR VETERANS FACILITY, WHO PROVIDED MEDICAL  
21 TREATMENT OR NURSING CARE TO THE DECLARANT DURING THE FINAL ILLNESS  
22 OR IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE DECLARANT'S DEATH, OR A PARTNER, MEMBER,  
23 SHAREHOLDER, OWNER, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HEALTH FACILITY WHERE  
24 MEDICAL TREATMENT OR NURSING CARE WAS PROVIDED.

25 (iii) AN OFFICER, PARTNER, MEMBER, SHAREHOLDER, OWNER,  
26 REPRESENTATIVE, OR EMPLOYEE OF A CEMETERY AT WHICH THE DECLARANT'S  
27 BODY WILL BE INTERRED, ENTOMBED, OR INURNED.

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1           (iv) AN OFFICER, PARTNER, MEMBER, SHAREHOLDER, OWNER,  
2 REPRESENTATIVE, OR EMPLOYEE OF A CREMATORY THAT WILL PROVIDE THE  
3 DECLARANT'S CREMATION SERVICES.

4           (3) ~~(2)~~—The FOLLOWING HAVE THE RIGHTS AND POWERS UNDER  
5 SUBSECTION (1) IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER OF PRIORITY:

6           (A) IF THE DECEDENT WAS A SERVICE MEMBER <<AT THE TIME OF THE  
7 DECEDENT'S DEATH>>, A PERSON DESIGNATED  
8 TO DIRECT THE DISPOSITION OF THE SERVICE MEMBER'S REMAINS ACCORDING  
9 TO A STATUTE OF THE UNITED STATES OR REGULATION, POLICY, DIRECTIVE,  
OR INSTRUCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

10           (B) A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATED UNDER SUBSECTION (2).

11           (C) THE surviving spouse. ~~or, if there is no surviving spouse,~~  
12 ~~the~~

13           (D) SUBJECT TO SUBDIVISION (E), THE individual or individuals  
14 18 years of age or older, ~~in the highest order of priority under~~  
15 ~~section 2103, and related to the decedent in the closest degree of~~  
16 ~~consanguinity, have the rights and powers under subsection (1).~~ IN  
17 THE FOLLOWING ORDER OF PRIORITY:

18           (i) THE DECEDENT'S CHILDREN.

19           (ii) THE DECEDENT'S GRANDCHILDREN.

20           (iii) THE DECEDENT'S PARENTS.

21           (iv) THE DECEDENT'S GRANDPARENTS.

22           (v) THE DECEDENT'S SIBLINGS.

23           (vi) A DESCENDANT OF THE DECEDENT'S PARENTS WHO FIRST NOTIFIES  
24 THE FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT IN POSSESSION OF THE DECEDENT'S BODY OF  
25 THE DESCENDANT'S DECISION TO EXERCISE HIS OR HER RIGHTS UNDER  
26 SUBSECTION (1).

27           (vii) A DESCENDANT OF THE DECEDENT'S GRANDPARENTS WHO FIRST

1 NOTIFIES THE FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT IN POSSESSION OF THE DECEDENT'S  
2 BODY OF THE DESCENDANT'S DECISION TO EXERCISE HIS OR HER RIGHTS  
3 UNDER SUBSECTION (1).

4 (E) IF AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION (D) HAD THE  
5 RIGHT TO DISPOSE OF THE DECEDENT'S BODY UNDER SUBSECTION (1), BUT  
6 AFFIRMATIVELY DECLINED TO EXERCISE HIS OR HER RIGHT OR FAILED TO  
7 EXERCISE HIS OR HER RIGHT WITHIN 48 HOURS AFTER RECEIVING  
8 NOTIFICATION OF THE DECEDENT'S DEATH, THE INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT HAVE  
9 THE RIGHT TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THE DISINTERMENT OF THE  
10 DECEDENT'S BODY OR POSSESSION OF THE DECEDENT'S CREMATED REMAINS.

11 (4) ~~(3) If the surviving spouse or~~ IF the individual or  
12 individuals with the highest priority as determined under  
13 subsection ~~(2) do not exercise their rights or powers under~~  
14 ~~subsection (1) or (3)~~ cannot be located after a good-faith effort  
15 to contact **AND INFORM** them **OF THE DECEDENT'S DEATH, AFFIRMATIVELY**  
16 **DECLINE TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS OR POWERS UNDER SUBSECTION (1), OR**  
17 **FAIL TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS OR POWERS UNDER SUBSECTION (1) WITHIN**  
18 **48 HOURS AFTER RECEIVING NOTIFICATION OF THE DECEDENT'S DEATH,** the  
19 rights and powers under subsection (1) may be exercised by the  
20 individual or individuals in the same order of priority under  
21 ~~section 2103 who are related to the decedent in the next closest~~  
22 ~~degree of consanguinity.~~ **SUBSECTION (3).** If the individual or each  
23 of the individuals in an order of priority as determined under this  
24 subsection similarly ~~does not~~ **AFFIRMATIVELY DECLINES OR FAILS TO**  
25 exercise his or her rights or powers **WITHIN 48 HOURS AFTER**  
26 **RECEIVING NOTIFICATION THAT HE OR SHE MAY ACT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION**  
27 or cannot be located, the rights or powers under subsection (1)

1 pass to the next order of priority ~~, with the order of priority~~  
2 ~~being determined by first taking the individuals in the highest~~  
3 ~~order of priority under section 2103 and then taking the~~  
4 ~~individuals related to the decedent in the closest or, as~~  
5 ~~applicable, next closest degree of consanguinity in that order of~~  
6 ~~priority.~~ **UNDER SUBSECTION (3). FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION**  
7 **ONLY, "EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS OR POWERS UNDER SUBSECTION (1)" MEANS**  
8 **NOTIFYING THE FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT IN POSSESSION OF THE DECEDENT'S**  
9 **BODY OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S DECISION TO EXERCISE HIS OR HER RIGHTS OR**  
10 **POWERS UNDER SUBSECTION (1).**

11 (5) ~~(4)~~—If 2 or more individuals share the rights and powers  
12 described in subsection (1) as determined under subsection ~~(2)~~ ~~or~~  
13 (3) **OR (4)**, the rights and powers shall be exercised as decided by  
14 a majority of the individuals **WHO CAN BE LOCATED AFTER REASONABLE**  
15 **EFFORTS**. If a majority cannot agree, any of the individuals may  
16 file a petition under section 3207.

17 (6) ~~(5)~~—If no individual described in subsections ~~(2)~~ ~~and~~ (3)  
18 **AND (4)** exists, exercises the rights or powers under subsection  
19 (1), or can be located after a sufficient attempt as described in  
20 subsection ~~(9)~~, **(10)**, and if subsection ~~(6)~~ ~~(7)~~ does not apply,  
21 then the personal representative or nominated personal  
22 representative may exercise the rights and powers under subsection  
23 (1), either before or after his or her appointment.

24 (7) ~~(6)~~—If no individual described in subsections ~~(2)~~ ~~and~~ (3)  
25 **AND (4)** exists, exercises the rights or powers under subsection  
26 (1), or can be located after a sufficient attempt as described in  
27 subsection ~~(9)~~, **(10)**, and if the decedent was under a guardianship

1 at the time of death, the guardian may exercise the rights and  
2 powers under subsection (1) and may make a claim for the  
3 reimbursement of burial expenses as provided in section 5216 or  
4 5315, as applicable.

5 (8) ~~(7)~~—If no individual described in subsections ~~(2)~~ and ~~(3)~~  
6 **AND (4)** exists, exercises the rights or powers under subsection  
7 (1), or can be located after a sufficient attempt as described in  
8 subsection ~~(9)~~, **(10)**, if the decedent died intestate, and if  
9 subsection ~~(6)~~—**(7)** does not apply, **A SPECIAL FIDUCIARY APPOINTED**  
10 **UNDER SECTION 1309 OR** a special personal representative appointed  
11 under section 3614(c) may exercise the rights and powers under  
12 subsection (1).

13 (9) ~~(8)~~—If there is no person under subsections ~~(2)~~—**(3)** to ~~(7)~~  
14 **(8)** to exercise the rights and powers under subsection (1), 1 of  
15 the following, as applicable, shall exercise the rights and powers  
16 under subsection (1):

17 (a) Unless subdivision (b) applies, ~~the county public~~  
18 ~~administrator, if willing, or the medical examiner for the county~~  
19 where the decedent was domiciled at the time of his or her death.

20 (b) If the decedent was incarcerated in a state correctional  
21 facility at the time of his or her death, the director of the  
22 department of corrections or the designee of the director.

23 **(10)** ~~(9)~~—An attempt to locate a person described in subsection  
24 ~~(2)~~ or ~~(3)~~ **OR (4)** is sufficient if a reasonable attempt is made in  
25 good faith by a family member, personal representative, or  
26 nominated personal representative of the decedent to contact the  
27 person at his or her last known address, telephone number, or

1 electronic mail address.

2 (11) ~~(10)~~ This section does not void or otherwise affect an  
3 anatomical gift made under part 101 of the public health code, 1978  
4 PA 368, MCL 333.10101 to 333.10123.

5 ~~—— (11) If all of the following apply, subsections (2) to (8) do~~  
6 ~~not apply and the designated person has the rights and the powers~~  
7 ~~under subsection (1):~~

8 ~~—— (a) The decedent was a service member who designated a person~~  
9 ~~to direct disposition of the service member's remains according to~~  
10 ~~a statute of the United States or a regulation, policy, directive,~~  
11 ~~or instruction of the department of defense.~~

12 ~~—— (b) The designated person is the surviving spouse, an adult~~  
13 ~~blood relative, or an adoptive relative of the decedent or, if the~~  
14 ~~surviving spouse, an adult blood relative, or an adoptive relative~~  
15 ~~of the decedent cannot be found, a person standing in loco~~  
16 ~~parentis.~~

17 ~~—— (c) The designated person is able and willing to exercise the~~  
18 ~~rights and powers enumerated in subsection (1).~~

19 (12) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS BEEN CRIMINALLY CHARGED WITH THE  
20 INTENTIONAL KILLING OF THE DECEDENT SHALL NOT EXERCISE A RIGHT  
21 UNDER SUBSECTION (1) WHILE THE CHARGES ARE PENDING.

22 (13) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION, A PERSON  
23 WHO HAS THE RIGHTS AND POWERS UNDER SUBSECTION (1) AND WHO  
24 EXERCISES THE RIGHT OVER THE DISPOSITION OF THE DECEDENT'S BODY  
25 MUST ENSURE PAYMENT FOR THE COSTS OF THE DISPOSITION THROUGH A  
26 TRUST, INSURANCE, A COMMITMENT BY ANOTHER PERSON, A PREPAID  
27 CONTRACT UNDER THE PREPAID FUNERAL AND CEMETERY SALES ACT, 1986 PA



1 255, MCL 328.211 TO 328.235, OR OTHER EFFECTIVE AND BINDING MEANS.  
2 TO THE EXTENT PAYMENT IS NOT ENSURED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE  
3 PERSON DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION IS LIABLE FOR THE COSTS OF THE  
4 DISPOSITION. THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A PERSON WHO  
5 EXERCISES THE RIGHTS AND POWERS UNDER SUBSECTION (1) AS PROVIDED IN  
6 SUBSECTION (8) OR (9).

7 (14) ~~(12)~~—As used in this section:

8 (a) "Armed forces" means that term as defined in section 2 of  
9 the veteran right to employment services act, 1994 PA 39, MCL  
10 35.1092.

11 (b) "HEALTH FACILITY" MEANS THAT TERM AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
12 5653 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH CODE, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.5653.

13 (c) "HEALTH PROFESSIONAL" MEANS THAT TERM AS DEFINED IN  
14 SECTION 5883 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH CODE, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.5883.

15 (d) "MEDICAL TREATMENT" MEANS THAT TERM AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
16 5653 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH CODE, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.5653.

17 (e) ~~(b)~~—"Michigan national guard"—**NATIONAL GUARD** means that  
18 term as defined in section 105 of the Michigan military act, 1967  
19 PA 150, MCL 32.505.

20 (f) ~~(e)~~—"Nominated personal representative" means a person  
21 nominated to act as personal representative in a will that the  
22 nominated person reasonably believes to be the valid will of the  
23 decedent.

24 (g) ~~(d)~~—"Service member" means a member of the armed forces, a  
25 reserve branch of the armed forces, or the Michigan national  
26 guard.—**NATIONAL GUARD**.

27 **SEC. 3206A. (1) A DECLARANT MAY DESIGNATE IN THE FUNERAL**

1 REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION A SUCCESSOR INDIVIDUAL AS A FUNERAL  
2 REPRESENTATIVE WHO MAY EXERCISE THE RIGHTS AND POWERS DESCRIBED IN  
3 SECTION 3206(1) IF THE FIRST INDIVIDUAL NAMED AS FUNERAL  
4 REPRESENTATIVE DOES NOT ACCEPT, IS INCAPACITATED, RESIGNS, OR IS  
5 REMOVED.

6 (2) AN INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE ACCEPTS  
7 THE DESIGNATION AS FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE BY SIGNING AN ACCEPTANCE  
8 OF FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE, OR BY ACTING AS THE FUNERAL  
9 REPRESENTATIVE.

10 (3) THE AUTHORITY UNDER A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION  
11 IS EXERCISABLE BY A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE ONLY AFTER THE DEATH OF  
12 THE DECLARANT.

13 (4) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THE FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE  
14 DESIGNATION, A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE SHALL NOT DELEGATE HIS OR HER  
15 POWERS TO ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL.

16 (5) ON REQUEST OF THE FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT, THE FUNERAL  
17 REPRESENTATIVE SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE  
18 DESIGNATION TO THE FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT.

19 SEC. 3206B. A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION IS REVOKED BY  
20 1 OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

21 (A) UNLESS A SUCCESSOR FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE HAS BEEN  
22 DESIGNATED, ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

23 (i) THE FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE'S RESIGNATION.

24 (ii) THE FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE CANNOT BE LOCATED AFTER  
25 REASONABLE EFFORTS BY THE DECEDENT'S FAMILY OR FUNERAL  
26 ESTABLISHMENT.

27 (iii) THE FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE REFUSES TO ACT WITHIN 48

1 HOURS AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE OF THE DECEDENT'S DEATH.

2 (B) THE DECLARANT'S REVOCATION OF THE FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE  
3 DESIGNATION. THE DECLARANT'S REVOCATION OF THE FUNERAL  
4 REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION MUST BE IN WRITING AND SIGNED IN THE  
5 MANNER AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 3206(2).

6 (C) A SUBSEQUENT FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION THAT  
7 REVOKES THE PRIOR FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION EITHER  
8 EXPRESSLY OR BY INCONSISTENCY.

9 Sec. 3207. (1) ~~If there is a disagreement as described in~~  
10 ~~section 3206(4) or if 1 or more of the individuals described in~~  
11 ~~section 3206(2) or (3) cannot be located, 1 ONE~~ or more of the  
12 following may petition the court to ~~determine who has the authority~~  
13 ~~to exercise the rights and powers under section 3206(1):~~ **RESOLVE A**  
14 **DISAGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SECTION 3206(5) OR REBUT THE PRESUMPTION**  
15 **UNDER SECTION 3206(1):**

16 (a) An individual with the rights and powers under section  
17 3206(1).

18 (b) A funeral establishment that has custody of the decedent's  
19 body.

20 (C) **AN INDIVIDUAL OTHER THAN A PERSON WITH PRIORITY UNDER**  
21 **SECTION 3206(3) TO (5) OR ACTING UNDER SECTION 3206(6), (7), (8),**  
22 **OR (9).**

23 (2) Venue for a petition filed under subsection (1) is in the  
24 county in which the decedent was domiciled at the time of death.

25 (3) On receipt of a petition under this section, the court  
26 shall set a date for a hearing on the petition. The hearing date  
27 shall ~~shall~~ **MUST** be as soon as possible, but not later than 7 business

1 days after the date the petition is filed. Notice of the petition  
2 and the hearing ~~shall~~**MUST** be served not less than 2 days before  
3 the date of the hearing on every individual who has highest  
4 priority as determined under section ~~3206(2) and (3)~~, **3206(3) AND**  
5 **(4)**, unless the court orders that service on every such individual  
6 is not required. Unless an individual cannot be located after a  
7 reasonable good-faith effort has been made to contact the  
8 individual, service ~~shall~~**MUST** be made on the individual personally  
9 or in a manner reasonably designed to give the individual notice.  
10 Notice of the hearing ~~shall~~**MUST** include notice of the individual's  
11 right to appear at the hearing. An individual served with notice of  
12 the hearing may waive his or her rights. If written waivers from  
13 all persons entitled to notice are filed, the court may immediately  
14 hear the petition. The court may waive or modify the notice and  
15 hearing requirements of this subsection if the decedent's body must  
16 be disposed of promptly to accommodate the religious beliefs of the  
17 decedent or his or her next of kin.

18 (4) If a funeral establishment is the petitioner under this  
19 section, the funeral establishment's actual costs and reasonable  
20 attorney fees in bringing the proceeding ~~shall~~**MUST** be included in  
21 the reasonable funeral and burial expenses under section 3805(1)(b)  
22 or the court may assess such costs and fees against 1 or more  
23 parties or intervenors.

24 (5) In deciding a petition brought under this section, the  
25 court shall consider all of the following, in addition to other  
26 relevant factors:

27 (a) The reasonableness and practicality of the funeral

1 arrangements or the handling or disposition of the body proposed by  
2 the person bringing the action in comparison with the funeral  
3 arrangements or the handling or disposition of the body proposed by  
4 1 or more individuals with the rights and powers under section  
5 3206(1).

6 (b) The nature of the personal relationship to the deceased of  
7 the person bringing the action compared to other individuals with  
8 the rights and powers under section 3206(1).

9 (c) Whether the person bringing the action is ready, willing,  
10 and able to pay the costs of the funeral arrangements or the  
11 handling or disposition of the body.

12 (D) WHETHER THE DECEDENT EXECUTED A FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE  
13 DESIGNATION UNDER SECTION 3206(2) OR A DESIGNATION DESCRIBED IN  
14 SECTION 3206(3) (A).

15 (E) IF THE DECEDENT WAS MARRIED AT THE TIME OF HIS OR HER  
16 DEATH, WHETHER THE DECEDENT'S SPOUSE WAS PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY  
17 SEPARATED FROM THE DECEDENT AT THE TIME OF HIS OR HER DEATH AND HAD  
18 BEEN SEPARATED FOR A PERIOD OF TIME THAT CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES AN  
19 ABSENCE OF DUE AFFECTION, TRUST, AND REGARD BETWEEN THE SPOUSE AND  
20 THE DECEDENT.

21 (6) BEFORE THE COURT MAKES A DECISION UNDER SUBSECTION (5),  
22 AND IF REFRIGERATION IS NOT REASONABLY AVAILABLE, THE FUNERAL  
23 ESTABLISHMENT THAT HAS CUSTODY OF THE DECEDENT'S BODY MAY EMBALM  
24 THE DECEDENT'S BODY.

25 Sec. 3209. (1) A funeral establishment is not required to file  
26 a petition under section 3207 and is not civilly liable for not  
27 ~~doing so.~~ FILING A PETITION UNDER SECTION 3207.

1           (2) ~~The~~ **A FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT MAY RELY ON THE** designation of  
2 a **FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE UNDER SECTION 3206(2), THE DESIGNATION OF**  
3 **A** person as described in section ~~3206(11) or 3206(3)(A)~~, the order  
4 of priority determined under section ~~3206(2) and (3)~~ may be relied  
5 ~~upon by a funeral establishment.~~ **3206(3) AND (4), OR A COURT ORDER**  
6 **UNDER SECTION 3207 THAT DETERMINES WHO MAY EXERCISE THE RIGHTS AND**  
7 **POWERS UNDER SECTION 3206(1).** A funeral establishment is not a  
8 guarantor that a person exercising the rights and powers under  
9 section 3206(1) has the legal authority to ~~do so.~~ **EXERCISE THOSE**  
10 **RIGHTS AND POWERS.** A funeral establishment does not have the  
11 responsibility to contact or independently investigate the  
12 existence of relatives of the deceased, but may rely on information  
13 provided by family members of the deceased **OR BY A PERSON OTHER**  
14 **THAN A FAMILY MEMBER THAT THE FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT REASONABLY**  
15 **BELIEVES KNOWS THE EXISTENCE OR LOCATION OF THE RELATIVES OF THE**  
16 **DECEASED OR THE FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE. AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION,**  
17 **"INFORMATION" INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, AN AFFIRMATION THAT**  
18 **REASONABLE EFFORTS TO CONTACT THE INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS WITH**  
19 **THE RIGHTS AND POWERS UNDER SECTION 3601(1) AND TO INFORM THE**  
20 **INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS OF THE DEATH HAVE BEEN MADE WITHOUT**  
21 **SUCCESS.**

22           (3) A funeral establishment, holder of a license to practice  
23 mortuary science issued by this state, cemetery, **OR** crematory, or  
24 an officer or employee of a funeral establishment, holder of a  
25 license to practice mortuary science issued by this state,  
26 cemetery, or crematory may rely on ~~the terms of~~ sections 3206 and  
27 3207 and this section and the instructions of a person described in

1 section 3206(2) to ~~(8) or (11)~~, or of an individual determined in  
2 an action under section 3208 to be the party to exercise the rights  
3 and powers under section 3206(1), **(9) OR A PERSON THAT THE COURT**  
4 **DETERMINES UNDER SECTION 3207 HAS RIGHTS AND POWERS UNDER SECTION**  
5 **3206(1)** regarding funeral arrangements and the handling,  
6 disposition, or disinterment of a body and is not civilly liable to  
7 any person for the reliance if the reliance was in good faith.

8 Sec. 3614. A special personal representative may be appointed  
9 in any of the following circumstances:

10 (a) Informally by the register on the application of an  
11 interested person if necessary to protect the estate of a decedent  
12 before the appointment of a general personal representative or if a  
13 prior appointment is terminated as provided in section 3609.

14 (b) By the court on its own motion or in a formal proceeding  
15 by court order on the petition of an interested person if in either  
16 case, after notice and hearing, the court finds that the  
17 appointment is necessary to preserve the estate or to secure its  
18 proper administration, including its administration in  
19 circumstances in which a general personal representative cannot or  
20 should not act. If it appears to the court that an emergency  
21 exists, the court may order the appointment without notice.

22 (c) By the court on its own motion or on petition by an  
23 interested person to supervise the disposition of the body of a  
24 decedent if section ~~3206(7)~~**3206(8)** applies. The duties of a  
25 special personal representative appointed under this subdivision  
26 ~~shall~~**MUST** be specified in the order of appointment and may include  
27 making arrangements with a funeral home, securing a burial plot if

1 needed, obtaining veteran's or pauper's funding ~~where~~ **IF**  
2 appropriate, and determining the disposition of the body by burial  
3 or cremation. The court may waive the bond requirement under  
4 section 3603(1)(a). The court may appoint the county public  
5 administrator if the county public administrator is willing to  
6 serve. If the court determines that it will not be necessary to  
7 open an estate, the court may appoint a special fiduciary under  
8 section 1309 instead of a special personal representative to  
9 perform duties under this section.

10       Sec. 3701. A personal representative's duties and powers  
11 commence ~~upon~~ **ON** appointment. A personal representative's powers  
12 relate back in time to give acts by the person appointed that are  
13 beneficial to the estate occurring before appointment the same  
14 effect as those occurring after appointment. Subject to sections  
15 3206 to ~~3208~~, **3207**, before or after appointment, a person named as  
16 personal representative in a will may carry out the decedent's  
17 written instructions relating to the decedent's body, funeral, and  
18 burial arrangements. A personal representative may ratify and  
19 accept an act on behalf of the estate done by another if the act  
20 would have been proper for a personal representative.

21       Enacting section 1. Section 3208 of the estates and protected  
22 individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.3208, is repealed.