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Prepaid customers of Missouri funeral firm worry about contracts

By RICK ALM
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Policyholders with St. Louis-based **National Prearranged Services** are worried whether their prepaid funeral plans are in jeopardy.

The company this week agreed to suspend all sales operations in Missouri. It earlier reached similar agreements with Texas and several other states as regulators sought to examine the company's ability to fulfill its contractual obligations.

Missouri officials estimate that the company has 46,000 policyholders in the state. It remained unclear Friday how they and policyholders in other states will be affected.

"We want people to know we are working to safeguard their interest," said Emily Kampeter, a spokeswoman for the **Missouri Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors**. "We've stopped the flow of business to look at what's going on. Our concern is that they get what they paid for."

Kampeter said policyholders with questions can call the state board at 573-751-0813, National Prearranged Services at 800-334-3851, or the funeral home where they bought the policy.

National Prearranged Services is owned by the Cassity family trust in Missouri. The family also owns funeral homes and cemeteries, including **Mount Washington Forever Cemetery and Funeral Home** in Independence.

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