

Missouri Revised Statutes

Chapter 436

Special Purpose Contracts

Section 436.053

August 28, 2007

Certain funds may be in joint account in lieu of trust--requirements --waiver of reporting fee, when--waiver of right to cancel, effect.

436.053. 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 436.021 to 436.048, the provider and the purchaser may agree that all funds paid the provider by the purchaser shall be deposited with financial institutions chartered and regulated by the federal or state government authorized to do business in Missouri in an account in the joint names and under the joint control of the provider and purchaser. If the purchaser has irrevocably waived and renounced his right to cancel the agreement between the provider and the purchaser pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection, such agreement may provide that all funds held in the account at the beneficiary's death shall be applied toward the purchase of funeral or burial services or facilities, or funeral merchandise, selected by the purchaser or the responsible party after the beneficiary's death, in lieu of the detailed identification of such items required by subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of section 436.007. The agreement between the provider and purchaser shall provide that:

- (1) The total consideration to be paid by the purchaser under the contract shall be made in one or more payments into the joint account at the time the agreement is executed or, thereafter within five days of receipt, respectively;
- (2) The financial institution shall hold, invest, and reinvest the deposited funds in savings accounts, certificates of deposit or other accounts offered to depositors by the financial institutions, as the agreement shall provide;
- (3) The income generated by the deposited funds shall be used to pay the reasonable expenses of administering the agreement, and the balance of the income shall be distributed or reinvested as provided in the agreement;
- (4) At any time before the final disposition, or before funeral services, facilities, and merchandise described in a preneed contract are furnished, the purchaser may cancel the contract without cause by delivering written notice thereof to the provider and the financial institution, and within fifteen days after its receipt of the notice, the financial institution shall distribute the deposited funds to the purchaser;
- (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection, if a purchaser is eligible, becomes eligible, or desires to become eligible to receive public assistance under chapter 208, RSMo, or any other applicable state or federal law, the purchaser may irrevocably waive and renounce his right to cancel such agreement. The waiver and renunciation must be in writing and must be delivered to the provider and the financial institution;
- (6) If the death of the beneficiary occurs outside the general area served by the provider, then the provider shall either provide for the furnishing of comparable funeral services and merchandise by a licensed mortuary selected by the purchaser or, at the provider's option, shall pay over to the purchaser in fulfillment of the obligation of the preneed contract, an amount equal to the sums actually paid in cash by such purchaser under such preneed contract together with interest to be provided for in the contract, in which event the financial institution shall distribute the deposited funds to the provider;
- (7) Within fifteen days after a provider and a witness certifies in writing to the financial institution that he has furnished the final disposition, or funeral services, facilities, and merchandise described in a contract, or has

provided alternative funeral benefits for the beneficiary pursuant to special arrangements made with the purchaser, if the certification has been approved by the purchaser, then the financial institution shall distribute the deposited funds to the provider.

2. There shall be a separate joint account as described in subsection 1 of this section for each preneed contract sold or arranged under this section.

3. If the total face value of the contracts sold by a provider operating solely under the provisions of this section does not exceed thirty-five thousand dollars in any one fiscal year, such a provider shall not be required to pay the annual reporting fee for such year required under subsection 1 of section 436.069.

(L. 1982 S.B. 644 § 13, A.L. 1985 H.B. 627, A.L. 1990 H.B. 1214)

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