

1 AN ACT relating to coroners.

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 to notify the spouse, if any, or next of kin of the decedent's  
6 death. In the event the coroner is unable to locate the spouse, if any, or next of  
7 kin, he or she may cause the body to be buried **or cremated** at the expense of  
8 the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-county government,  
9 whichever is appropriate.

10 **(b) After cremation, the coroner shall either:**

11 **1. Offer the cremated remains to the spouse, if any, next of kin, or friend**  
12 **of the decedent, if any are discovered; or**

13 **2. Inter the cremated remains of the decedent at the expense of the fiscal**  
14 **court, consolidated local government, or urban-county government. If**  
15 **a coroner inter the cremated remains, the interment shall be**  
16 **accompanied by the placement of a permanent marker with the**  
17 **decedent's name and dates of birth and death, if known.**

18 **(c) For the purposes of this section, "inter," "inters," "interred," or**  
19 **"interment" means burial, entombment, or inurnment in any cemetery,**  
20 **place of sepulture, mausoleum, crypt, or columbarium, in a manner**  
21 **consistent with a proper and dignified disposition commonly associated with**  
22 **a final resting place for human cremated remains.**

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

1 delivered by the coroner to the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or  
 2 urban-county government, whichever is appropriate, to help defray burial,  
 3 **cremation, or interment** expenses. Any excess funds shall escheat to such  
 4 governmental agency one (1) year thereafter.

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

8 **(4) No cremation shall occur for any unclaimed body for which the coroner:**

9 **(a) 1. Has held or intends to hold a coroners' inquest in accordance with**  
 10 **KRS 72.420; and**

11 **2. Has any reason to believe that the unclaimed body will be needed as**  
 12 **evidence in any criminal matter; or**

13 **(b) Upon reasonable inquiry, believes cremation is or may be inconsistent with**  
 14 **the personal wishes of the decedent or his or her cultural or religious**  
 15 **beliefs.**