



Proposed law requires funeral establishments and healthcare facilities to notify by a written notarized document, the coroner for the parish of the decedent's domicile stating the factual history and circumstances of the abandonment. Proposed law also lists other items required to be contained in the notification to the coroner, including but not limited to information about known next of kin; organizations the deceased was a member of; known assets, including insurance policies, pending claims under litigation, and any potential unresolved claims or asset of any kind; veteran and employment status; religious affiliation; and all documents in the possession of the funeral home or healthcare provider.

Proposed law provides that upon the coroner's receipt of the notarized document and records attached there to, the funeral home or healthcare facility is required to transport the human remains of the decedent at their costs to the coroner of the decedent's domicile, if located in Louisiana, or to the coroner of the parish where the death occurred if the decedent's domicile is not in Louisiana, is required to assume jurisdiction of the case, and accept the remains for future disposition.

Proposed law provides that the remains of a decedent in the possession of a funeral establishment or healthcare facility are deemed abandoned if the person or persons authorized by law to control the disposition orally or in writing refuses to make arrangements or provide for the disposition of the decedent, or fails to make arrangements or provide for the disposition of the remains of a decedent after death at a healthcare facility, or after the remains are in the possession of the funeral establishment.

Proposed law provides that if the coroner releases the remains to an interested person, such person may serve as the authorizing agent for cremation.

Effective on July 1, 2015.

(Amends R.S. 9:1551 and R.S. 37:876; adds R.S. 8:1(20.1) and 655(D))