

Subject Disposition of decedents' property by coroners and medical examiners

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Overview

This bill modifies the process for coroners and medical examiners to dispose of decedents' property that coroners and medical examiners take into custody.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Property of unknown decedents.
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Amends § 390.225, subd. 5. Under current law if a decedent's identity is not known and the county is disposing of the decedent's remains, the coroner or medical examiner must release the decedent's property to the county for disposal or sale and if the decedent's identity is determined within six years after the property's sale, must pay the proceeds from the sale to a representative of the decedent's estate, if a representative is found.

Instead of sale or disposal, this section permits the coroner or medical examiner to bury the decedent's property with the decedent, arrange for long-term storage, or dispose of the property according to section 525.393 (section 2 of this bill).

Effective date: day following final enactment.

2	Disposal by coroner or medical examiner.
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Amends § 525.393. Under current law when a coroner takes a decedent's personal property into custody, the property must be held for three months. If the property is not claimed by will or administration of the estate or given to a relative of the decedent, after three months the coroner or medical examiner must file an inventory of the property with the court and may give property of nominal value to a relative of the decedent. After six months, the property must be sold, and proceeds from the sale must be paid to a representative of the decedent if one qualifies within six years after the sale.

Instead of this process, this section requires a coroner or medical examiner to inventory a decedent's personal property that was taken into custody. If no one claims the property after six months, the coroner or medical examiner may surrender

Section	Description
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the property to a relative of the decedent or the person with the right to control the decedent's remains, or may sell or dispose of the property. If the property is sold, the coroner or medical examiner is not required to hold proceeds from the sale in the decedent's name or pay the proceeds to a representative if one is later found, but may deposit money from the sale in an account of the medical examiner's office to recover reasonable expenses.

Effective date: day following final enactment.



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