

Board of County Commissioners
Leon County, Florida

Policy No. 98-25

Title: Disposition of Unclaimed Bodies

Date Adopted: February 27, 2007

Effective Date: February 27, 2007

Reference: Ch. 406.50, F.S.

Policy Superseded: Policy No. 98-25, "Disposition of Unclaimed Bodies", adopted October 13, 1998; Policy No. 83-3, "Disposition of Unclaimed Bodies", adopted June 14, 1983

It shall be the policy of the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, that Policy No. 98-25, entitled "Disposition of Unclaimed Bodies", adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on October 13, 1998, is hereby repealed and superseded, and a revised policy is hereby adopted in its place, to wit:

1. The person or entity in charge or control of the dead body or human remains shall make a reasonable effort to determine:
 - a. The identity of the deceased person and shall further make a reasonable effort to contact any relatives of such deceased person.
 - b. Whether or not the deceased person is entitled to burial in a national cemetery as a veteran of the armed forces and, if so, shall make arrangements for such burial services in accordance with the provisions of 38 C.F.R. For purposes of this subsection, "a reasonable effort" includes contacting the County veterans' service office or regional office of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
2. Such dead human body, as described in this chapter, shall be delivered to the anatomical board as soon as possible after death.
3. Nothing herein shall affect the right of a medical examiner to hold such dead body or remains for the purpose of investigating the cause of death, nor shall this chapter affect the right of any court of competent jurisdiction to enter an order affecting the disposition of such body or remains.
4. In the event more than one legally authorized person claims a body for interment, the requests shall be prioritized in accordance with s. 732.103.
5. For purposes of this chapter, the term "anatomical board" means the anatomical board of this state located at the University of Florida Health Science Center, and the term "unclaimed" means a dead body or human remains that are not claimed by a legally authorized person, as defined in s. 497.005, for interment at that person's expense.