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2005 Missouri Revised Statutes - § 436.031. — Trustee of preneed trust to be chartered financial institution --powers and duties--cost of administration--termination of trust.

436.031. 1. The trustee of a preneed trust shall be a state or federally chartered financial institution authorized to exercise trust powers in Missouri. The trustee shall accept all deposits made to it by the seller of a preneed contract and shall hold, administer, and distribute such deposits, in trust, as trust principal, pursuant to the provisions of sections 436.005 to 436.071. Payments regarding two or more preneed contracts may be deposited into and commingled in the same preneed trust, so long as the trust's grantor is the seller of all such preneed contracts and the trustee maintains adequate records of all payments received.

2. All property held in a preneed trust, including principal and undistributed income, shall be invested and reinvested by the trustee thereof. The trustee shall exercise such judgment and care under circumstances then prevailing which men of ordinary prudence, discretion,

and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not in regard to speculation but in regard to the permanent disposition of their funds, considering the probable income therefrom as well as the probable safety of their capital. A preneed trust agreement may provide that when the principal and interest in a preneed trust exceeds two hundred fifty thousand dollars, investment decisions regarding the principal and undistributed income may be made by a federally registered or Missouri-registered independent qualified investment advisor designated by the seller who established the trust; provided, that title to all investment assets shall remain with the trustee and be kept by the trustee to be liquidated upon request of the advisor of the seller. In no case shall control of said assets be divested from the trustee nor shall said assets be placed in any investment which would be beyond the authority of a reasonably prudent trustee to invest in. The trustee shall be relieved of all liability regarding investment decisions made by such qualified investment advisor.

3. The seller of a preneed contract shall be entitled to all income, including, without limitation, interest, dividends, and capital gains, and losses generated by the investment of preneed trust property regarding such contract, and the trustee of the trust may distribute all income, net of losses, to the seller at least annually; but no such income distribution shall be made to the seller if, and to the extent that, the distribution would reduce the aggregate market value on the distribution date of all property held in the preneed trust, including principal and undistributed income, below the sum of all deposits made to such trust pursuant to subsection 1 of this section for all preneed contracts then administered through such trust.

4. All expenses of establishing and administering a preneed trust, including, without limitation, trustee's fees, legal and accounting fees, investment expenses, and taxes, shall be paid or reimbursed directly by the seller of the preneed contracts administered through such trust and shall not be paid from the principal of a preneed trust.

5. The trustee of a preneed trust shall maintain adequate books of account of all transactions administered through the trust and pertaining to the trust generally. The trustee shall assist seller who established the trust or its successor in interest in the preparation of the annual report described in subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of section 436.021. The seller shall furnish to each contract purchaser, within fifteen days after receipt of the purchaser's written request, a written statement of all deposits made to such trust regarding such purchaser's contract.

6. The trustee of a preneed trust shall, from time to time, distribute trust principal as provided by sections 436.005 to 436.071.

7. A preneed trust shall terminate when trust principal no longer includes any payments made under any preneed contract, and upon such termination the trustee shall distribute all trust property, including principal and undistributed income, to the seller which established the trust.

(L. 1982 S.B. 644 ◆ 6, A.L. 1985 H.B. 627)

Effective 7-16-85

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