

523I.213A Examinations — authority and scope.

1. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct an examination under this chapter of any cemetery as often as the commissioner deems appropriate. If a cemetery has a trust arrangement, the commissioner shall conduct an examination not less than once every five years.

2. A cemetery shall reimburse the division for the expense of conducting the examination unless the commissioner waives this requirement or the seller has previously provided to the commissioner a certified copy of an audit conducted by an independent certified public accountant verifying compliance with this chapter for each year in question and the examination conducted by the commissioner does not disclose that the seller has not complied with this chapter for the years in question. The expense of an examination involving multiple cemeteries or other persons shall be prorated among them upon any reasonable basis as determined by the commissioner.

3. For purposes of completing an examination pursuant to this chapter, the commissioner may examine or investigate any person, or the business of any person, if the examination or investigation is, in the sole discretion of the commissioner, necessary or material to the examination of the cemetery.

4. Upon determining that an examination should be conducted, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may appoint one or more examiners to perform the examination and instruct them as to the scope of the examination.

5. A cemetery or person from whom information is sought, and its officers, directors, and agents shall provide to the examiners appointed under subsection 4, timely, convenient, and free access at their offices, at all reasonable hours, to all books, records, accounts, papers, documents, and all electronic or other recordings related to the property, assets, business, and affairs of the cemetery being examined and shall facilitate the examination as much as possible. If a cemetery, by its officers, directors, employees, or agents, refuses to submit to an examination as provided in this chapter, the commissioner shall immediately report the refusal to the attorney general, who shall then immediately apply to district court for the appointment of a receiver to administer the final affairs of the cemetery.

6. This section shall not be construed to limit the commissioner's authority to terminate or suspend any examination in order to pursue other legal or regulatory actions pursuant to this chapter. Findings of fact and conclusions made pursuant to an examination are deemed to be prima facie evidence in any legal or regulatory action.

7. Notwithstanding chapter 22, the commissioner shall not make information obtained in the course of an examination public, except when a duty under this chapter requires the commissioner to take action against a cemetery or to cooperate with another law enforcement agency, or when the commissioner is called as a witness in a civil or criminal proceeding.

2007 Acts, ch 175, §42; 2010 Acts, ch 1121, §29; 2011 Acts, ch 70, §47

Referred to in §22.7