

523I.810 Care funds.

1. A trustee of a care fund shall use the judgment and care under the circumstances then prevailing that persons of 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 as well as the probable safety of their capital. The trustee of a care fund has a fiduciary duty to make reasonable investment decisions and to properly oversee and manage the funds entrusted to the care fund.

a. A financial institution may serve as a trustee if granted those powers under the laws of this state or of the United States. A financial institution acting as a trustee of a care fund under [this chapter](#) shall invest the funds in accordance with applicable law.

b. A financial institution acting as a trustee of a care fund under [this chapter](#) has a fiduciary duty to make reasonable investment decisions and to properly oversee and manage the funds entrusted to the financial institution. The commissioner may take enforcement action against a financial institution in its capacity as trustee for a breach of fiduciary duty under [this chapter](#).

c. Care fund moneys may be deposited pursuant to a master trust agreement, if each care fund is treated as a separate beneficiary of the trust and each care fund is separable. The master trust shall maintain a separate accounting of principal and income for each care fund. Moneys deposited under a master trust agreement may be commingled by the financial institution for investment purposes.

d. Subject to a master trust agreement, the cemetery may appoint an independent investment advisor to advise the financial institution about investment of the care fund.

e. Subject to an agreement between the cemetery and the financial institution, the financial institution may receive a reasonable fee from the care fund for services rendered as trustee.

f. If the amount of a care fund exceeds two hundred thousand dollars, the cemetery or any officer, director, agent, employee, or affiliate of the cemetery shall not serve as trustee unless the cemetery is a cemetery owned or operated by a governmental subdivision of this state. A financial institution holding care funds shall not do any of the following:

- (1) Be owned, under the control of, or affiliated with the cemetery.
- (2) Use any funds required to be held in trust under [this chapter](#) to purchase an interest in a contract or agreement to which the cemetery is a party.
- (3) Otherwise invest care funds, directly or indirectly, in the cemetery's business operations.

2. All moneys required to be deposited in the care fund shall be deposited in the name of the trustee, as trustee, under the terms of a trust agreement and the trustee may invest, reinvest, exchange, retain, sell, and otherwise manage the care fund trust for the benefit and protection of the cemetery.

3. [This section](#) does not prohibit a cemetery from moving care funds from one financial institution to another.

4. A care fund may receive and hold as part of the care fund or as an incident to the care fund any property contributed to the care fund.

5. A contribution to a care fund is considered to be for charitable purposes if the care financed by the care fund is for the following purposes:

a. The discharge of a duty due from the cemetery to persons interred and to be interred in the cemetery.

b. The benefit and protection of the public by preserving and keeping the cemetery in a dignified condition so that the cemetery does not become a nuisance or a place of disorder, reproach, and desolation in the community in which the cemetery is located.

6. A contribution to a care fund is not invalid because of the following:

a. Indefiniteness or uncertainty as to the person designated as a beneficiary in the instrument establishing the care fund.

b. A violation of the law against perpetuities or the law against the suspension of the power of alienation of title to or use of property.

7. A care fund shall pay the fund's operation costs and any annual audit fees. The principal

of a care fund is intended to remain available perpetually as a funding source for care of the cemetery. The principal of a care fund shall not be reduced voluntarily and shall remain inviolable, except as provided in [this section](#). The trustee or trustees of a care fund shall maintain the principal of the care fund separate from all operating funds of the cemetery.

8. In establishing a care fund, the cemetery may adopt plans for the care of the cemetery and installed memorials and memorialization.

9. A cemetery may, by resolution adopted by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of its board at any authorized meeting of the board, authorize the withdrawal and use of not more than twenty percent of the principal of the care fund to acquire additional land for cemetery purposes, to repair a mausoleum or other building or structure intended for cemetery purposes, to build, improve, or repair boundaries, roads and walkways in the cemetery, to construct a columbarium, mausoleum, or similar structure to create additional interment spaces, to purchase equipment for tree, shrub, and lawn care, to purchase backhoes or similar equipment used to open and close interment spaces, or to purchase recordkeeping software used to maintain ownership records or interment records. The resolution shall establish a reasonable repayment schedule, not to exceed five years. However, the care fund shall not be diminished below an amount equal to the greater of twenty-five thousand dollars or five thousand dollars per acre of land in the cemetery. The resolution, and if the deposit of care fund income over five years is unlikely to fund replenishment of the principal of the care fund, either a bond or proof of insurance to guarantee replenishment of the care fund, shall be filed with the commissioner thirty days prior to the withdrawal of funds.

[2005 Acts, ch 128, §65; 2007 Acts, ch 175, §48; 2015 Acts, ch 128, §45, 50, 51](#)

Referred to in §523I.102