

523A.601 Disclosures.

1. A purchase agreement for cemetery merchandise, funeral merchandise, funeral services, or a combination thereof shall be written in clear, understandable language, and shall be printed or typed in an easy-to-read font, size, and style, and shall:

a. Identify the seller, the salesperson's permit and establishment name and permit number, the expiration date of the salesperson's permit, the purchaser, and the person for whom the cemetery merchandise, funeral merchandise, funeral services, or a combination thereof is purchased, if other than the purchaser.

b. Specify the cemetery merchandise, funeral merchandise, funeral services, or a combination thereof to be provided, and the cost of each merchandise item or service.

c. State clearly the conditions upon which substitution will be allowed.

d. State the total purchase price and the terms under which it is to be paid.

e. State clearly whether the purchase agreement is a guaranteed price agreement or a nonguaranteed price agreement. A nonguaranteed price agreement shall contain in twelve point boldface type an explanation of the consequences of such agreement in substantially the following language:

THE PRICES OF MERCHANDISE AND SERVICES UNDER THIS AGREEMENT ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN THE FUTURE. ANY FUNDS PAID UNDER THIS AGREEMENT ARE ONLY A DEPOSIT TO BE APPLIED, TOGETHER WITH ACCRUED INCOME, TOWARD THE FINAL COSTS OF THE MERCHANDISE OR SERVICES AGREED UPON. ADDITIONAL CHARGES MAY BE INCURRED WHEN ADDITIONAL MERCHANDISE OR SERVICES OR BOTH ARE PROVIDED OR WHEN PRICES HAVE INCREASED MORE THAN ACCRUED INCOME.

f. State that the purchase of the cemetery merchandise, funeral merchandise, and funeral services is revocable and specify the damages for cancellation, if any.

g. State clearly who has the authority to cancel, amend, or revoke the purchase agreement to purchase cemetery merchandise, funeral merchandise, and funeral services.

h. State clearly that the purchaser is entitled to rescind the purchase agreement under terms and conditions specified by section 523A.602.

i. Include an explanation of regulatory oversight by the insurance division in twelve point boldface type, in substantially the following language:

THIS AGREEMENT IS SUBJECT TO RULES ADMINISTERED BY THE IOWA INSURANCE DIVISION. YOU MAY CALL THE INSURANCE DIVISION AT (... .. WRITTEN INQUIRIES OR COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE MAILED TO THE IOWA SECURITIES BUREAU, (STREET ADDRESS), (CITY), IOWA (ZIP CODE).

2. A purchase agreement that is funded by a trust shall also:

a. State the percentage of money to be placed in trust.

b. Explain the disposition of the income generated from investments and include a statement of the purchaser's responsibility for income taxes owed on the income if applicable.

c. State that if, after all payments are made under the conditions and terms of the purchase agreement for cemetery merchandise, funeral merchandise, funeral services, or a combination thereof, any funds remain in the nonguaranteed irrevocable burial trust fund, the seller shall disburse the remaining funds according to law.

d. State clearly the terms of the funeral and burial trust agreement and whether it is revocable or irrevocable.

e. State clearly that the purchaser is entitled to transfer the trust funding, insurance funding, or other trust assets or select another establishment to receive the trust funding, insurance funding, or any other trust assets.

f. State clearly who has the authority to amend or revoke the trust agreement, if revocable, and who has the authority to appoint successor trustees if the purchase agreement is canceled.

3. The commissioner may adopt rules establishing disclosure and format requirements to promote consumer understanding of the merchandise and services purchased and the available funding mechanisms for a purchase agreement under this chapter.

4. A purchase agreement shall be signed by the purchaser, the seller, and if the agreement is for mortuary science services as mortuary science is defined in section 156.1, a person licensed to deliver funeral services.

5. The seller shall disclose the following information prior to accepting the initial payment under a purchase agreement:

a. The specific method or methods (trust deposits, certificates of deposit, life insurance or an annuity, a surety bond, or warehousing) that will be used to fund the purchase agreement.

b. The relationship between the soliciting agent or agents, the provider of the cemetery merchandise, funeral merchandise, or funeral services, or combination thereof, the commissioner, and any other person.

c. The relationship of the life insurance policy or other trust assets to the funding of the purchase agreement and the nature and existence of any guarantees regarding the purchase agreement.

d. The impact on the purchase agreement of the following:

(1) Changes in the funding, including but not limited to changes in the assignment, beneficiary designation, trustee, or use of proceeds.

(2) Any penalties to be incurred by the purchaser as a result of the failure to make any additional payments required.

(3) Penalties to be incurred upon cancellation.

e. A list of cemetery merchandise, funeral merchandise, and funeral services which are agreed upon under the purchase agreement and all relevant information concerning the price of the cemetery merchandise, funeral merchandise, funeral services, or a combination thereof, including a statement that the purchase price is either guaranteed at the time of purchase or to be determined at the time of need.

f. All relevant information concerning what occurs and whether any entitlements or obligations arise if there is a difference between the funding and the amount actually needed to fund the purchase agreement.

g. Any penalties or restrictions, including but not limited to geographic restrictions or the inability of the provider to perform, upon delivery of cemetery merchandise, funeral merchandise, or funeral services, or the purchase agreement guarantee.

h. If the funding is being transferred from another establishment, any material facts related to the revocation of the prior purchase agreement and the transfer of the existing trust funds.

2001 Acts, ch 118, §36; 2002 Acts, ch 1119, §84