

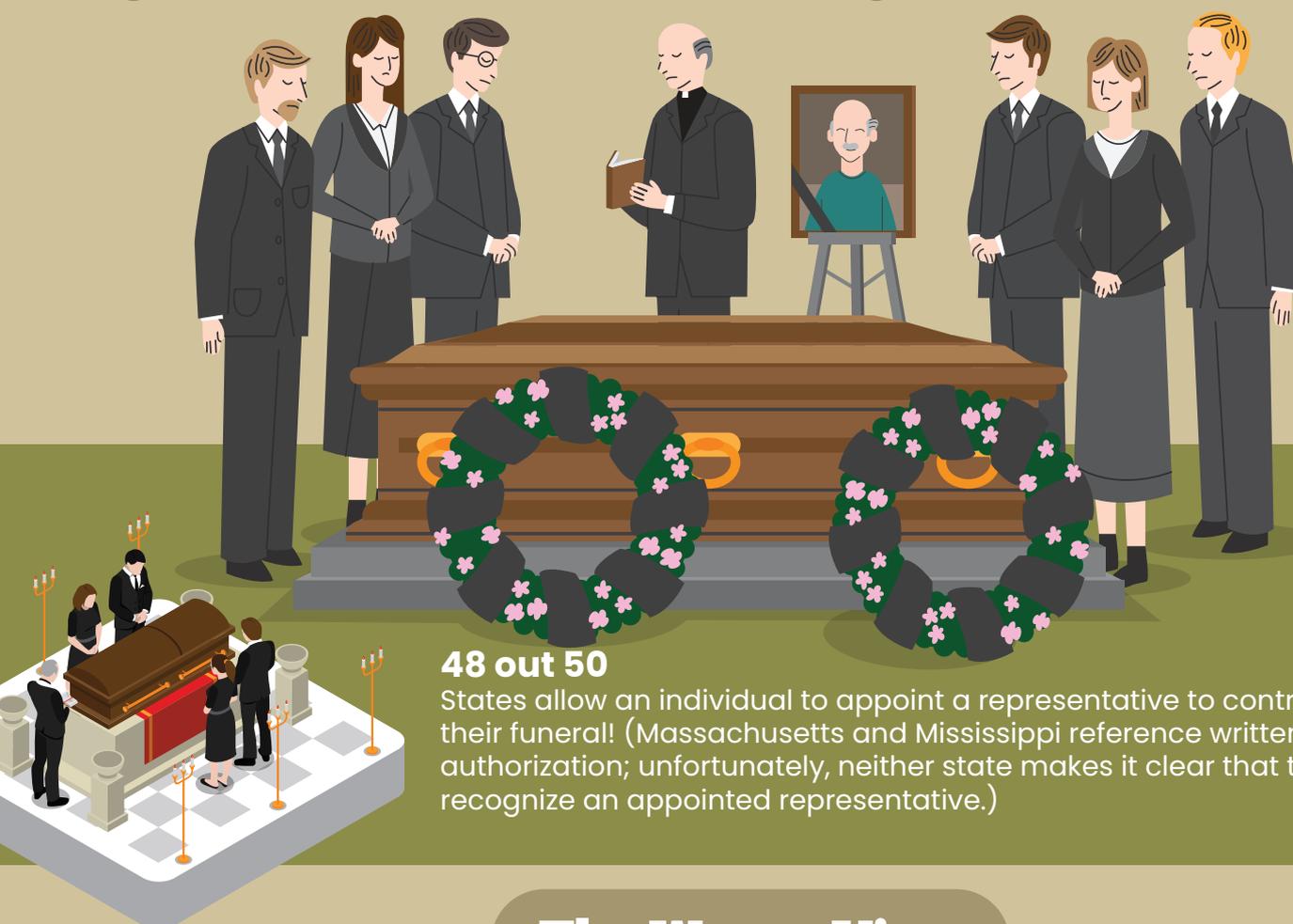
Death PSA

Who Has the Right To Control Your Funeral?

Most people don't know it, but when you die every state has a list (think of it as a priority list) of who can control your final disposition - you know - the funeral. Not only is there a list that most people aren't aware of, the list typically conflicts with what most people think! For example, the number one choice of who can control of a funeral is ... someone listed in the deceased's Will. But as you will see - that is typically the lowest person on the priority list!

Typical Top 10 Order of Right of Final Disposition:

- 1 A Person designated by Decedent in writing
- 2 A Spouse
- 3 Child(ren)
- 4 Parent(s)
- 5 Sibling(s)
- 6 A person in next degree of kinship
- 7 A guardian
- 8 The person in decedent's Will
- 9 A Public Health Officer
- 10 Any other person



48 out of 50

States allow an individual to appoint a representative to control their funeral! (Massachusetts and Mississippi reference written authorization; unfortunately, neither state makes it clear that they recognize an appointed representative.)

The Wrong View



73%

73% of those surveyed believe directions in a Will are the highest-ranking control for a funeral!



26%

26% believe a spouse is the highest-ranking person for someone's funeral!



No one surveyed ranked an appointed individual as the highest ranking.

ONLY 10% of those surveyed placed an appointed agent in the 2nd or 3rd in order of priority.

There is an even split among those who think the 'oldest child' is in charge versus 'all children' having an equal right (The correct answer is that 'all children' have the same right!)

Making arrangements at anyone's funeral is difficult. What makes it more difficult - conflict! If you do not know who is in charge it can lead to issues. For those that think they can write their preferences in a Will and that will be the gospel - you are in for a rude awakening (Well - you will actually be dead so no awakening will happen, but you get the picture!) Also, when we have no appointed agent; no spouse; and only have children, remember that ALL of the children have an equal right. And depending on the state where you live, you may need ALL the children to agree and sign paperwork!

The Appointment of Agent is truly a great resource that anyone can use, and any funeral provider will have to follow. And, in case you just want to see what one looks like - go to LemastersConsulting.com and check out the form for your state!