# STATE OF NEW YORK

8759

# IN SENATE

January 8, 2026

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to publishing a guide to actions when someone close dies

**The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:**

Section 1. Section 226 of the elder law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2025, amending the elder law relating to publishing a guide to actions when someone close dies, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4351-A and A. 3939-A, is amended to read as follows:

§ 226. Guide to actions when someone close dies. 1. The office shall publish a "Guide to Actions When Someone Close Dies". [~~This~~] **Within one year of the effective date of this section, this** guide shall be made publicly available on the official website of the office and the office may **also** produce a paper format [~~within one year of the effective date of this section~~].

2. The guide shall provide information in at least the following domains:

(a) Economic security, including but not limited to, pensions, social security, life insurance, health insurance, **and** death benefits [~~as well as tax implications of a death~~]. **This information shall also refer to the resources provided by the department of taxation and finance regarding estate taxes.**

(b) Legal, including how to access death certificates, wills, trust documents and other legal information needed to plan for the future.

(c) Mental health assistance, including information on the grieving process, triggers and symptoms associated with grief, effective coping strategies, the impact on family dynamics in relation to the loss of someone close, and other mental health concerns correlated with grief.

(d) Disposition of remains including funeral and service arrangements and burials. This information shall [~~include average costs by region and~~] refer to the resources provided by the department of health's bureau of funeral directing.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD04492-05-6

(e) Other information as determined by the office [~~in consultation with the special advisory committee established pursuant to this section~~].

3. The [~~director shall establish a special advisory committee to help fulfill the requirements of this section. The committee shall be temporary and dissolve thirty days after the guide is posted and distributed. The members of the special advisory committee shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, to the extent funds are appropriated for such purpose. The committee shall contain~~] **office may choose to seek consultation with and advice from** representatives from the following professions as well as any state agency representatives [~~that are needed at the discretion of the director~~]~~,~~ **which may include**:

(a) Funeral directors;

(b) Cemeteries;

(c) Mental health professionals with specific knowledge of grief counseling;

(d) Attorneys specialized in estate planning, including the New York state bar association; [~~and~~]

(e) **Tax professionals; and**

**(f)** Clergy.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2025 amending the elder law relating to publishing a guide to actions when someone close dies, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4351-A and A. 3939-A, takes effect.