

THE MICHIGAN PENAL CODE (EXCERPT)
Act 328 of 1931

750.160c Prohibited acts; violation; exceptions; “final disposition of a dead body” defined.

Sec. 160c. (1) A person shall not do any of the following:

(a) After agreeing to provide the services of a funeral director, fail or refuse to properly supervise the final disposition of that dead human body.

(b) After agreeing to provide for the final disposition of a dead human body, fail or refuse to properly dispose of that dead human body.

(2) A person who violates this section is guilty of a crime as follows:

(a) If the failure or refusal to properly supervise the final disposition of a dead human body or the failure or refusal to properly dispose of the dead human body occurs more than 60 days but not more than 180 days after the date the person takes possession of the dead human body, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days or a fine of not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

(b) If the failure or refusal to properly supervise the final disposition of a dead human body or the failure or refusal to properly dispose of the dead human body occurs more than 180 days after the date the person takes possession of the dead human body, the person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 10 years or a fine of not more than \$50,000.00, or both.

(3) It is not a violation of this section if the failure or refusal is due to 1 or more of the following factors:

(a) Delays due to seasonal factors relating to the method of final disposition of the dead human body.

(b) Delays due to the availability of services required to complete the final disposition of the dead human body.

(c) The directives of the person having lawful authority over final disposition of the dead human body to postpone that disposition pending funeral services, the presence of certain family members, or other activities.

(d) Delays due to the inability to obtain the necessary authorizations regarding the method of final disposition of the dead human body or due to the inability to locate individuals essential to making a decision regarding the final disposition of the dead human body.

(e) Delays due to an autopsy, investigation of the cause of death, the gathering of evidence, or other activity or procedure required by a governmental or law enforcement agency.

(f) Delays pursuant to an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction upon petition and showing of good cause for a delay in the final disposition of a dead human body.

(4) This section does not prohibit a person from being charged with, convicted of, or punished for any other violation of law that is committed by that person while violating this section.

(5) As used in this section, “final disposition of a dead human body” means cremation, burial, entombment, or other method of final disposition of a dead human body allowable under law.

History: Add. 2003, Act 267, Eff. Apr. 1, 2004.