

LA LAW LIBRARY

PRO BONO WEEK 2022

What Happens After Death: Laws About Human Remains

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LA Law Library Locations

Main Library:

(Corner of 1st & Hill)
301 W. First Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 785-2529

Mon - Fri: 8:30am–6:00pm
Sat: 9:00am–5:00pm



Courthouse Branch Locations:

Long Beach, Torrance

Courthouse eBranch Locations:

Long Beach, Norwalk, Pomona, Torrance,

Public Library Partnerships:

Compton, Lancaster, Pasadena, Santa Monica
Van Nuys, West Covina



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Remote Locations

- **Courthouse Branch Locations:**

Long Beach, Norwalk, Pomona, and Torrance

- **Public Library Partnerships:**

Compton Library, Lancaster Regional Library,
Norwalk Public Library, Pasadena Public Library,
Pomona

Public Library, Santa Monica Public Library, Los
Angeles Public Library Van Nuys Branch, West Covina
Public Library

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LALAWLIBRARY

www.lalawlibrary.org

The screenshot shows the homepage of the LA Law Library website. At the top left is the logo, which consists of a stylized 'L' made of three vertical bars in grey, red, and yellow, with the text 'LALAWLIBRARY' below it. To the right of the logo is a 'LOG IN' button and a dropdown menu labeled 'How Do I...'. Below these is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search this website...' and a magnifying glass icon. A dark navigation bar contains the following links: HOME, SELF HELP, SERVICES & RENTALS, LEGAL RESEARCH, CLASSES & EVENTS, ABOUT US, CONTACT US, and SEARCH. The main content area features a large red banner with the heading 'REPRESENTING YOURSELF' and sub-headings 'STUDENT RESOURCES' and 'LEGAL PROFESSIONALS'. On the left side of the banner is a vertical menu with links: 'About the LA Law Library', 'Check out Classes', 'Frequently Asked Questions', 'Find Court Forms', 'Find Your Court', 'Get Legal Help', and 'Speak with a Librarian'. The right side of the banner shows a photograph of three people (two men and one woman) sitting at a table, looking at documents. Below the photo is the text 'CHECK OUT CLASSES' and 'A VARIETY OF CLASSES AIMED EDUCATING FOR THE PUBLIC, PARALEGAL AND LEGAL COMMUNITY.', along with a 'READ MORE' button. Below the banner are three columns: 'SEARCH OUR CATALOG' with a search box and a 'QUICK SEARCH' button; 'BRIEFS' with a description of California appellate briefs and a small image of a bookshelf; and 'NEWS / EVENTS' with a list of events including 'MCLE Cram Day - 6 Participatory Credits in One Day' and 'MCLE Cram Day - Video, "Hot Topics in Legal Ethics"'. A small hourglass icon is visible on the right side of the page.



LALAWLIBRARY

Overview

- The LA Law Library was established in 1891
 - The current building was opened in 1953
 - Largest print collection in a public law library west of the Mississippi River
-
- Seven floors
 - 35 miles of shelving
 - 1,000,000 equivalent volumes including print and digital



Print Collection

- Primary and secondary legal materials for all 50 states, federal and multi-state
Foreign and International materials
- Extensive historical collection including early California and state colonial materials
- California and Ninth Circuit Appellate and Supreme Court briefs



Electronic Databases

- CEB OnLAW
- Foreign Law Guide
- Forms Workflow
- HeinOnline
- Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals
- LA Law Library Catalog
- Legal Information Reference Center
- LegalTrac
- Lexis
- SmartRules
- U.S. Supreme Court Records and Briefs, 1832-1978
- Thomson Reuters Westlaw
- Wolters Kluwer – Law and Business



What We Do

- Suggest research avenues and sources for research, identify and locate citations
- Explain how to use legal materials
- Explain the law-making process
- Assist in finding forms
- Aid in the use of electronic resources including Westlaw and Lexis (online databases that contain cases, codes, and statutes for all 50 states and secondary materials), CEB OnLAW and HeinOnline
- Teach public classes



Library Services



- Reference Service
 - in library, by phone, email, mail and live chat through 24/7 Reference Cooperative
- Document Delivery Service
- Members Program
 - Open to members of the State Bar of California
- Computer Services
- Circulation
 - Borrower registration program
 - Reserve books and more...
- Facility Rentals
 - Training Center
 - Conference Rooms
 - Office Space
 - Private Events (up to 500 ppl)
- Instruction
 - Public training classes
 - MCLE courses
 - Tours



LALAWLIBRARY

What Happens After Death: Laws About Humans Remains

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Reference & Research*

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Research*



LALAWLIBRARY

This Class Will Cover

- Laws and regulations re: embalming, burial or cremation, scattering ashes and how to get a death certificate.
- When and why the Coroner is involved.
- Disinterment and liability for interment and disinterment expense.
- Actions for breach of contract.
- Negligence in performance of funeral-related services.
- Resources to help you both before and after a death occurs.



What Should You Do If Someone Dies?

- It depends on where you are, and the circumstances surrounding the death.
- **At home and death expected** – call the deceased person's doctor or 911
- **At home and not expected** – call 911 or Medical Examiner – Coroner.
 - The ME-Coroner is mandated by California law to investigate all deaths relating to suicide, homicide, accident, infectious or communicable disease, or when the deceased person had not been treated by a licensed physician within 20 days preceding death (**Cal Government Code § 27491**)
- **In a hospital/nursing home/ hospice** – notify a nurse of the death
- **In a public place** – call 911 or Medical Examiner – Coroner



Important California Code Sections

- Most of the relevant laws are in **Cal. Health & Safety Code §§7000-9093**
- Licensing and regulation of cemetery operations, funeral directors, and embalmers and crematoriums are governed by **Cal. Bus & Prof Code §§ 7600-7742**



Important Definitions

- *Human Remains*

- Dead bodies are referred to in **H & S Code §7001** as “human remains” or “remains.” These remains are defined as the body of a deceased person, including the body in any stage of decomposition as well as cremated remains. “Cremated remains” means the ashes and bone fragments of a human body that are left after cremation in a crematory, and include ashes from the cremation container, but does not include foreign materials, pacemakers or prostheses (**H & S §7002**).



Important Definitions, Cont.

- *Cemeteries*
 - Cemeteries include burial parks, mausoleums, crematories, or columbariums, or any combination of these, when used, or intended to be used, and dedicated for cemetery purposes. Six or more human bodies buried in one place constitute a cemetery (**H & S §7003**).



Important Definitions, Cont.

- *Burial Park, Mausoleum, Columbarium, Crematory*
 - A **burial park** is a tract of land for the burial of human remains in the ground, used or intended to be used, and dedicated for cemetery purposes (**H & S §7004**).
 - A **mausoleum is** a structure or building for the entombment of uncremated human remains in crypts or vaults located in a place used, or intended to be used and dedicated for cemetery purposes (**H & S §§7005, 9504**).



Important Definitions, Cont.

- A **columbarium** is a structure, room, or other space in a building or structure containing niches for the inurnment of cremated human remains that is located in a place used, or intended to be used, and dedicated for cemetery purposes (**H & S §§7007, 9506**). A columbarium may be built within a mausoleum (**H & S §9504**).



Important Definitions, Cont.

- A **crematory** is a building or structure containing one or more furnaces for the reduction of bodies of deceased persons to cremated remains (**H & S §7006**). A cremation chamber is the enclosed space within which the cremation of human remains is performed (**H & S §7006.3**).
 - Pursuant to **H & S §7003**, a crematory is a cemetery and must have in conjunction with its operation either a mausoleum, a burial park, or a columbarium that is equipped at all times for the interment of bodies cremated at the crematory (see **55 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 402 (1972)** [this requirement is a constitutional and reasonable exercise of state's police power]).



What Are the Options for Disposition of a Body After Death?

- Entombment or burial in a cemetery
 - *Entombment* is the process of placing human remains in a crypt or vault (**H & S §§7009, 1012**)
 - *Burial* is the process of placing human remains in a grave (**H & S §7013**)



Options for Disposition of a Body After Death

- Cremation
 - *Cremation* means the process by which the following three steps are taken:
 - *Reduction* of the body to its essential elements by incineration
 - *Repositioning* or movement of the body during incineration to facilitate the process
 - *Processing* of the remains after removal from the cremation chamber



Cremation, Cont.

- *Inurement* of cremated remains is the placing of cremated remains in a container suitable for placement, burial or shipment (**H & S §7011**)
- Cremated remains may be scattered at sea (see **H & S §7117** for laws governing burial at sea)
- Cremated remains may be scattered in areas where no local prohibition exists, provided that the remains are not distinguishable to the public, are not in a container, and that the person who has control over disposition of the cremated remains has obtained written permission from the property owner or governing agency to scatter on the property (**H & S §7116**)



Two New Options Available in California:

- **Alkaline Hydrolysis**

- A chemical process that uses a solution of 95% water and 5% potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide to reduce a body to components of liquid and bone. Bone fragments are retained so they can be dried and turned into a substance similar to cremated ashes. The bone byproduct may be scattered, buried or disposed in any way cremated remains are handled.
- *Alkaline Hydrolysis* for disposition of human remains was legalized in California in October 2017, effective July 1, 2020 (**B & P §7611.9**). The first flameless cremation facility in California was opened in February 2022.



New Options, Cont.

- **Human Composting**

- *Human composting* is a state regulatory process for natural organic reduction, a method in which human remains naturally decompose over 30–45 days after being placed in a steel vessel and buried in wood chips, alfalfa and other biodegradable materials. The nutrient dense soil created by the process can then be returned to families or donated to conservation land.
- Costs are slightly less than a casket funeral and more than a cremation
- AB 351 approved by Governor on September 18, 2022 and **goes into effect in January 1, 2027 (B & P §7607)**



Who Makes Decisions on What Happens to Deceased's Body?

- California law determines who has the right to make final decisions about a person's body and funeral arrangements.
- This right and responsibility goes to the following people in order (**H & S §7100(a)**):
 - The deceased, if they put instructions in writing before dying (**H & S §7100**).
 - The deceased's health care agent, if one is named in an advance directive (**Prob. Code §4600 et seq.**).
 - Competent surviving spouse or domestic partner of deceased.
 - Surviving competent adult child of deceased, or a majority of children, if more than one.



Who Makes Decisions, Cont.

- Surviving competent parent(s) of deceased.
- Surviving competent siblings of deceased.
- Next of kin of deceased.
- A conservator who has been appointed for estate of deceased when the decedent has sufficient assets (**Prob. Code §1800 et seq.**).
 - The public administrator if the deceased has sufficient assets.
- To avoid distress and confusion upon your death, be sure to put your wishes in writing!



What Happens If the Person with the Right to Control Disposition of the Body Fails to Act or Delegate Their Authority to Act to Some Other Person or Cannot Be Found?

- After 7 days (or 10 days if the controlling person is a competent surviving spouse) the right to control of the body is relinquished and passed on to the next person or persons in the priority provided by **H & S Code §7105(a)**. Similarly, if any of the listed persons with right to control the disposition of the body, after reasonable inquiry, within seven days after the date when the right to control devolved upon that person (or 10 days if it is a competent surviving spouse), the right to control the body is relinquished and passed on to the next person or persons in the priority provided by the list (**H & S Code §7105(b)**).
- If there are murder charges re: person vested with right to control, see **H & S Code §7100**.



What Happens If Persons with Right to Control Interment Cannot Agree on Disposition?

- **H & S §7105** provides a procedure for a cemetery or funeral home, or a relative of decedent, to commence a proceeding to assign one relative to take control over disposition of the remains if a group of relatives share equal right to control, but cannot agree on disposition plans, and to compel the assigned relative to then inter the remains.
- You can find a template for the Petition for Order Providing for Interment of Human Remains – By Cemetery or Relative – Persons With Right to Control Interment Cannot Agree on Disposition in **15 Cal Forms of Pleading & Practice 180.53**.
- The petition must be filed in superior court and is not a limited civil case (**CCP §85; H&S §7105(c)**). Venue lies in the county in which decedent resided at the time of death or in which the remains are located (**H & S §7105(c)** but see also **H & S §7107**).



Can You Have a Home Burial?

- California law allows you to keep the body of the deceased at home after death, but you are then legally responsible for obtaining the death certificate, which is signed by the attending physician or coroner. You have 8 days to file the death certificate, and until it is issued, it is not legal to dispose of the remains, whether by burial or cremation.
- You will need a *Permit for Disposition* (\$12) from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Vital Records Office (if home burial is in L.A. County) or the local registrar of vital records if in another county. This allows you to prepare transportation of the deceased's remains from your home to the final place of disposition.
- Burial in California is only permitted in an established cemetery. If you want a home burial, you need to obtain a variance from the local zoning authority, and it is not likely to be permitted in an urban area. It may be possible in a rural area – try to get permission well in advance.



What Happens to the Body If It Went to the Medical-Examiner/Coroner?

- The Medical Examiner conducts an examination to determine the cause and manner of death, and assess whether an autopsy and/or lab tests are required. The decedent's body will be available for release after completion of the exam. If there is a funeral director, they will coordinate release of the body on your behalf. Upon receipt of the signed authorization form by legal next of kin (usually provided by funeral director) the body will be released.
- Decedent's personal possessions may be claimed by the legal next of kin. Government documents such as drivers license and passport will be returned to the issuing agency.
- Information re: unclaimed persons can be found on the Medical Examiners website: <https://mec.lacounty.gov/unclaimed-persons-search/>



Indigent and Unclaimed Dead

When no provision is made by the decedent, or when the estate has insufficient funds to provide for interment and no other person residing in California has the duty of interment, nor can such a person be found in California after reasonable diligence, the person who has custody of the remains may require the coroner of the county where the decedent resided at the time of death to take possession of the remains, and the coroner must then inter the remains (**H & S Code §7104 (a)**).

You can search unclaimed persons on the Los Angeles County Coroner's website: <https://mec.lacounty.gov/unclaimed-persons-search/>



How Do I Get a Death Certificate in California?

- A death certificate must be filed with the local registrar within eight days of the death and before the body is buried or cremated (**H & S Code §102775**). If you are dealing with a funeral home, mortuary, or crematory, you can ask them to order copies of the death certificate for you.
- The California Department of Public Health – Vital Records maintains birth, death, fetal death/still birth, marriage, and divorce records for California.
- There are different procedures to obtain “authorized copies” vs. “informational copies”



Death certificate – Authorized Copy

- “Authorized Copy”
- California law defines individuals who can obtain an authorized copy of a birth, death, and marriage certificate as:
- The registrant or a parent, legal guardian, child, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner of the registrant.
- A party entitled to receive the record as a result of court order or an attorney or licensed adoption agency seeking the birth record in order to comply with the requirements of **Family Code §§3140 or 7603**. (Please include a copy of the court order.)
- A member of a law enforcement agency or a representative of another governmental agency, as provided by law, who is conducting official business. (Companies representing a government agency must provide authorization from the government agency.



Death Certificate – Authorized Copy, Cont.

- Any person or agency empowered by statute or appointed by a court to act on behalf of the registrant or the registrant's estate (Include a copy of the power of attorney or documentation identifying you as executor.)
- An attorney representing the registrant or the registrant's estate.
- Any agent or employee of a funeral establishment who acts within the course and scope of employment and on behalf of persons specified in **H & S §7100 (a) (1)-(8)**.
- Surviving next of kin (As specified in **H & S §7100**).



Death Certificate – Informational Copy

- “*Informational copy*”
 - If you cannot obtain an authorized copy under California law, you can obtain an informational copy. An informational copy contains the same information as an authorized copy, but will have a legend across the face with the statement "Informational, Not a Valid Document to Establish Identity." Certain items may be redacted and an informational copy may not be used to obtain identification. However, authorized and informational copies are both considered "certified copies."



Death Certificate, Cont.

- The Cal. Dept. of Public Health – Vital Records maintains a permanent, public record of every death that has occurred in California since July 1905. The estimated processing time for certified copies of death certificates, whether requested electronically or by mail, is 5-7 weeks. The cost of a certified record is \$24 per copy.
- Everything you need to know, including the application, is included here:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/CDPH%20Document%20Library/ControlledForms/VS112.pdf>



Death Certificate, Cont.

- County records
 - If the death occurred within the past two years, you may be able to request the records from the County where the person died.
 - Local Registrar: Birth and death records for current year events and one year prior are available from the county health department in the jurisdiction where the event occurred.
 - County Recorder: Birth and death records for all years are available from the county recorder in the county where the event occurred.
- You can find your county's website here:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/County-Registrars-and-Recorders.aspx>



Death Certificate, Cont.

- This is a link to the Los Angeles County Records Office:
<https://www.lavote.gov/home/records/death-records/death-records-request/who-can-obtain-a-death-certificate-copy>
- There are options to request a death certificate in-person, online, or by mail.



What Is Disinterment, and What Is the Procedure to Have a Body Disinterred?

- Disinterment means to take a body out of a grave or tomb, usually to move to a new burial site, or possibly to confirm identity or cause of death.



Disinterment, Cont.

- A body may be disinterred as provided in **H & S §§7500, 7501, and 7525**. A reasonable cause must be shown for the removal of a body. The following factors are considered in deciding to disinter a body (*In re Terra* (1952) 111 Cal App 2d 452, 458; *In re Keck* (1946) 75 Cal App 2d 845, 849):
 - The due interest of the public.
 - The wishes of the decedent.
 - The rights and feelings of those entitled to be heard by reason of relationship or association.
 - The rights and principles of the religious body or other institution that granted the right to inter the body at the first place of burial.
 - Whether consent was given to the burial in the first place of interment.
- A presumption against removal grows stronger with remoteness of connection with the decedent.



Who Pays for Interment and Disinterment Expenses?

The estate of the deceased is primarily liable for funeral and interment expenses; the next of kin are only secondarily liable (see **H & S §7101** [estate liable for reasonable costs of funeral, plot, and interment]; **Walker v. Konitzer (1963) 217 Cal App 2d 654, 660**).

By contrast, one who causes the disinterment and reburial of the body of a relative in a family plot is not entitled to recover the costs of the reburial from the beneficiaries of the decedent's estate or from the decedent's next of kin.



Donating Body or Body Parts

An “anatomical gift” is a donation of all or part of a human body to take effect after the donor’s death for the purpose of transplantation, therapy, research, or education (**H & S Code § 7150.10 (a)(3)**).

Under the ***Uniform Anatomical Gift Act***, an anatomical gift of a donor’s body or part may be made during the life of the donor by any of the following individuals:

- The donor, if an adult, or either an emancipated minor of between ages 15-18 on written consent of parent or guardian
- An agent of the donor, provided that the power of attorney for health care or other record expressly permits the agent to make an anatomical gift
- See **H & S Code §§7150-7151.40** for more details



Anatomical Gifts, Cont.

After death, an anatomical gift of a deceased's body or part of the body for the purpose of transplantation, therapy, research, or education may be made by any member of the classes of persons set forth in **H & S §7150.40(a)** in order of priority.

See **H & S §§7150.40 (a)–(c)** for further details

For information on authorized donees (recipients) of anatomical gifts, see **H & S Code §715.50**



Change of Cemetery Use

A city or county is required to give notice pursuant to **Govt. Code §§ 65091-65094** whenever a person applies to the city or county for a zoning variance, special use permit, conditional use permit, zoning ordinance amendment, general or specific plan amendment, or any entitlement for use that would permit all or any part of a cemetery to be used for other than cemetery purposes (**Govt. Code § 6509**).

Under these provisions, notice must be given to owners of real property located within a specified distance of the cemetery property, the cemetery property owner or his or her agent, and each public agency expected to provide essential facilities or services to the project (see **Govt. Code §65091**). Notice must also be given to any person who has filed a written request for notice pursuant to **Govt. Code §65092**.



Change of Cemetery Use, Cont.

After 1989, the cemetery authority must provide written notice to each person who purchases or agrees to purchase interment rights of that person's ability to receive notices of a proposed change in the use of the cemetery for other than cemetery purposes. The written notice must be substantially as follows:

“State law gives you the right to know about future plans to use this cemetery for any other purpose. If you want to receive information about a future change, you must contact the local planning office and pay a small fee” (**H & S Code §8120**).



Native American Remains

The ***California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act*** provides detailed requirements to provide for the repatriation of Native American tribal remains and cultural items. It also provides the procedure for a lineal descendent claiming a relationship with, and requesting return of, Native American human remains or cultural items (see **H & S Code §§8010–8030**).

See the State of California Native American Heritage Commission's ***Professional Guide for the Preservation and Protection of Native American Human Remains and Associated Grave Goods***:

<https://nahc.ca.gov/resources/a-professional-guide-for-the-preservation-and-protection-of-native-american-human-remains-and-associated-grave-goods/>



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Breach of Contract

Right to control disposition of decedent's remains and to arrange for funeral goods and services to be provided *unless other directions have been issued by decedent* are listed in **H & S Code §7100**.

Thus, while the decedent and another person may contract a funeral provider for disposition of remains, the other person may sue for damaged for breach of that contract (**Saari v. Jongordon Corp. (1992), 5 Cal. App. 4th 797**).

Emotional Distress Damages?

Though generally *not* recoverable in typical contract cases, some emotional distress damages may be recoverable in actions for breach of contract for mortuary and/or crematorium service contracts (**Saari v. Jongordon Corp. (1992), 5 Cal. App. 4th 797**).



Negligence

Duty to Close Family Members

Funerary services providers assume duty regarding disposition of remains under their contract to provide funeral or other related services, thereby creating a special relationship obligating them to perform those services properly and nonnegligently (***Cristensen v. Superior Ct. (1991), 54 Cal. 3d 868***).

Duty extends to close family members generally including relatives in same household, or parents, siblings, children, and grandparents of decedent, but exceptional circumstances may extend duty to other relatives (***Thing v. La Chusa (1989), 48 Cal. 3d 644***).

Duty is *neither* limited to the contracting party *nor* to the statutory right-holder who controls disposition of decedent's remains (***Cristensen v. Superior Ct. (1991), 54 Cal. 3d 868***).



Negligence, Cont.

Nature of Tort

The negligent mishandling of a dead body *is not* an independent tort but rather the application of the tort of negligence to facts regarding the disposition of human remains (***Cristensen v. Superior Ct. (1991), 54 Cal. 3d 868***).

Examples of Mortuary Misconduct

- Removal of organs/body parts prior to cremation without permission
- Cremation of more than one body at once then commingling cremains presented to family
- Removal and sale of gold taken from cremains
- Losing remains in shipment
- Preparation of remains for burial in accordance to religious customs not held by next of kin
- Presentation of another person's dead body to family instead of the decedent's body
- Burial of another person in decedent's place
- Failure to provide adequate protection for decedent's remains



Negligence, Cont.

Willed Body Programs

Although a mortuary or crematory may be liable for emotional distress for negligent mishandling of a dead body, a research institution that receives willed bodies for medical research, and does not provide funerary services, *does not* have the same duty to the decedent's family (***Melican v. Regents of Uni. of Cal. (2007), 151 Cal. App. 4th 168***).

The right to control decedent's remains passes to the receiving institution at death if the decedent executed a willed-body agreement; the rights of the donor's family are superseded. The recipient institution's rights and obligations are outlined by the donation agreement, state law, and the **Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (H & S §7150 et seq.)**

Research institutions that contractually agree only to dispose of a donor's remains in accordance with state law have no duty to return any remains to the decedent's family (***Conroy v. Regents of Uni. of Cal. (2009), 45 Cal. 4th 1244***).



Select Library Resources

California Forms of Pleading & Practice: Ch. 99, “Birth and Death, Establishing Fact of”; Ch. 180, “Dead Bodies and Cemeteries”; Ch. 181, “Death and Survival Actions.”

California Legal Forms: Ch. 69, “Charitable Dispositions.”

Corpus Juris Secundum (CJS): Vol. 25, Dead Bodies, §§1-9.

Witkin: Summary of California Law: Vol. 13, Personal Property, §5 et seq.

On-demand class, **Don't Wait: Plan for Disability & End of Life Decisions:**
<https://www.lalawlibrary.org/hidden-classes/1727-on-demand-don-t-wait-plan-for-disability-and-end-of-life-decisions>.

On-demand class, **Do I Need a Power of Attorney or Conservatorship?:**
<https://www.lalawlibrary.org/hidden-classes/1776-on-demand-do-i-need-a-power-of-attorney-or-a-conservatorship>.

- Class is also available in Spanish as **¿Necesito un Poder de Representación o una Curatela?:**
<https://www.lalawlibrary.org/hidden-classes/1785-on-demand-necesito-un-poder-de-representacion-o-una-curatela>.



Select Online Resources

California Department of Consumer & Business Affairs: Cemetery & Funeral Bureau:
<https://www.cfb.ca.gov/>.

- Complaints against funerary service providers:
<https://www.cfb.ca.gov/consumer/complaints.shtml>.
- Consumer Guide to Funeral & Cemetery Purchases:
<https://www.cfb.ca.gov/consumer/funeral.shtml>.

California Department of Public Health—Vital Records:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/Vital-Records.aspx>.

- Copies of death certificates:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/Vital-Records-Obtaining-Certified-Copies-of-Death-Records.aspx>.

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health: Vital Records: for records within past 2 years except for deaths occurring in Long Beach or Pasadena:
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dca/dcadeath.htm>.

- For death certificates within 1 year of death for deaths in Long Beach, contact the **Long Beach Health & Human Services Dept.:**
<https://www.longbeach.gov/health/services/directory/records/>.
- For death certificates from 1993 through present for deaths in Pasadena, contact **Pasadena Public Health Dept.:**
<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/public-health/birth-and-death-records/>.

