

**§2842-B. Native American human remains**

**1. Transfer of remains.** Except as provided in subsections 2 and 3, a person or entity who possesses any human remains identified as Native American human remains shall transfer the remains to the intertribal repatriation organization that is appointed by the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Penobscot Nation, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and Mi'kmaq Nation for reburial. The intertribal repatriation organization shall make reasonable inquiry to locate the next of kin of the deceased. If next of kin are located, the intertribal repatriation organization shall transfer the remains to the next of kin. [PL 2009, c. 601, §26 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. A, §4 (REV); PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. A, §5 (AFF).]

**2. Medical Examiner cases.** In cases within the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner Act, the Chief Medical Examiner has authority over Native American human remains until the remains are no longer required for legal purposes. At that time, the Chief Medical Examiner shall make reasonable inquiry to locate the next of kin of the deceased. If next of kin are located, the Chief Medical Examiner shall release the remains to the next of kin of the deceased. If no next of kin are located, the remains must be released to the intertribal repatriation organization for reburial. [PL 2009, c. 601, §26 (AMD).]

**3. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.** Subsection 1 does not apply to any human remains or any person or entity subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 United States Code, Chapter 32. [PL 2001, c. 601, §1 (NEW).]

**4. Memorandum of understanding.** The Chief Medical Examiner, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine State Museum shall enter into a memorandum of understanding concerning the disposition of human remains in the possession of the Chief Medical Examiner that are subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. [PL 2001, c. 601, §1 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1993, c. 738, §C5 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 601, §1 (RPR). PL 2009, c. 601, §26 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. A, §4 (REV). PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. A, §5 (AFF).

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