DISCLOSURE FORM TO BE USED IF VAULTS OR OUTER BURIAL CONTAINERS ARE INSTALLED BEFORE NEED

To the buyer:

If your preneed contract includes the purchase and installation of a burial vault (or other type of outer burial container), you may be asked if you agree that the vault can be installed at some time prior to need (burial). A preneed provider is not required to offer this option. If offered as an option, this is your choice. You are not required to agree to installation before need. You can request that the vault be installed at need (at the time of burial). YOU SHOULD BE PROVIDED THIS FORM BEFORE YOU ARE ASKED TO SIGN YOUR PRENEED CONTRACT AND YOU SHOULD READ IT BEFORE SIGNING THE CONTRACT.

In making your decision about vault installation, you should consider the following:

1. The preneed provider representative should fully explain to you all available options about installation of a vault and answer any questions you have to your satisfaction.

2. Your preneed contract should clearly and separately disclose the cost of the vault, the cost of installing the vault before need, and the cost of reopening the vault, placing the casket, and closing, sealing, and covering the vault at need. The contract should also say approximately when or the timeframe within which the vault will be installed.

3. The disclosed cost of installing the vault before need cannot be more than 50% of the total amounts of that cost and the cost of reopening the vault, placing the casket, and closing, sealing, and covering the vault at need.

4. You need to verify that your preneed contract says the preneed provider is responsible for cleaning the interior of the vault before placing the casket and for replacing or repairing the vault if it is in a damaged condition when reopened at need to place the casket or if it is damaged as part of the final reopening or closing process – all at no additional cost to you.

5. You should be aware that, once installed, the vault may become a part of the real estate (the grave space) where installed. You may not be able to later have the vault removed.

6. You should be aware that, if the vault is installed before need, this may affect your ability to later cancel or transfer your preneed contract. At a minimum, you may not be entitled to a refund of the vault cost or the cost of installation. You need to read what your preneed contract says about that.

7. You should be asked to sign or initial a place in the preneed contract where you agree to have the vault installed before need or you request that it be installed at need.

8. Unless your preneed contract is fully funded by life insurance or the provider has posted a surety bond or letter of credit, Alabama law requires the preneed provider to deposit certain portions of the purchase price you pay for your contract into a merchandise and services trust. If your contract is trust-funded, and if you agree to have your vault installed before need, you should know that the amounts paid for the vault and the cost of installing it may not be placed in trust (or if placed in trust, those amounts will be withdrawn when the vault is installed).
What should be placed in trust in this situation is an amount equal to 60% of the cost for reopening the vault at need, placing the casket, and closing and covering the vault.

9. You should completely read your preneed contract, ask your preneed provider representative any questions you have, be sure your questions are answered, and make sure you understand those answers before signing anything.

10. You should be asked to sign this separate form which the preneed provider should keep as part of your contract record. You should be given a copy of this fully signed form and of the fully signed preneed contract.

IN ALABAMA, PRENEED SALES OF FUNERAL OR CEMETERY MERCHANDISE AND SERVICES ARE REGULATED BY LAW THROUGH THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE. YOU MAY CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT AT (334) 240-4420.

Preneed contract buyer(s):

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Date: ______________________

Preneed provider representative

2