

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION  
OF REMAINS OF A DECEDENT**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**I. Specific Instructions**

1. This form is to be used for a petition for determination of right of disposition of the remains of a decedent pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7.
2. O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7 provides that the petition may be filed by either (a) the funeral home with present custody of the remains of the decedent or (b) one of two or more persons with the same relationship to the decedent for purposes of the right to dispose of the remains as set forth in the Code section.
3. Service of notice of the petition and the hearing to be held to consider same shall be as provided in O.C.G.A. § 15-9-86.
4. According to Uniform Probate Court Rule 5.6 (A), unless the Court specifically assumes the responsibility, it is the responsibility of the moving party to prepare the proper citation and deliver it properly so it may be served according to law. All pages after the notice regarding Uniform Probate Court Rule 5.6 (A) are to be completed by the moving party, unless otherwise directed by the Court.
5. Exhibits should be labeled at the bottom of each exhibit as “Exhibit A,” “Exhibit B,” etc. in consecutive order. The corresponding letter of each said exhibit should be inserted into the appropriate place in the form.

**II. General Instructions**

General instructions applicable to all Georgia Probate Court Standard Forms are available in each probate court or at [www.gaprobate.gov](http://www.gaprobate.gov), labeled GPCSF 1.

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE:** \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 )  
 ) **ESTATE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DECEASED** )

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION  
OF REMAINS OF A DECEDENT**

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF THE PROBATE COURT:

The Petition of \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Full name(s) of petitioner(s)] First Middle Last*  
whose physical address(es) is/are \_\_\_\_\_,  
*Street City County State Zip Code*  
and mailing address(es) is/are \_\_\_\_\_,  
*Street City County State Zip Code*  
shows to the Court the following:

1.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*[Full name of decedent] First Middle Last*  
whose place of domicile was \_\_\_\_\_,  
*Street City County State Zip Code*  
departed this life on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

2.

Petitioner is: *[Initial either (a) or (b) below]*

- \_\_\_\_\_ (a) One of two or more persons with the same relationship to the decedent for purposes of the right to dispose of the remains as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (b) The funeral home with present custody of the remains of the decedent.

3.

There are two or more persons with the same relationship to the decedent for purposes of the right to dispose of the remains as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7, such persons being:

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Address</i> | <i>Relationship to Decedent</i> |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| _____       | _____          | _____                           |
| _____       | _____          | _____                           |
| _____       | _____          | _____                           |

4.

There are no known persons having a higher priority pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7 to make decisions concerning the disposition of the remains of the decedent than those listed in paragraph 3 of this petition.

5.

The decedent:

*[Initial all that apply]*

\_\_\_\_\_ (a) had an advance directive that addressed the disposition of the principal's body and is attached as "Exhibit \_\_\_\_\_."

\_\_\_\_\_ (b) did not have an advance directive that addressed the disposition of the principal's body.

If (a) is selected immediately above please list the person(s) named as the agent:

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Address</i> | <i>Relationship to Decedent</i> |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| _____       | _____          | _____                           |
| _____       | _____          | _____                           |
| _____       | _____          | _____                           |

6.

*[Initial all that apply]*

\_\_\_\_\_ (a) Of those persons listed above, the following have not participated in the attempt to determine the manner of disposition of the remains by agreement: \_\_\_\_\_ . Reasonable efforts have been made by one or more of the others named in paragraph 3 above to notify such person(s) and seek his/her/their participation. However, petitioner is not aware of any opposition to the decision of a majority of those participating.

\_\_\_\_\_ (b) Of those persons listed above, the following have acknowledged service of notice of this petition and consent to the determination of the right of disposition of the remains of decedent: \_\_\_\_\_ .

7.

Disagreement exists among those persons named in paragraph 3 of this petition as to the location, manner, and conditions of disposition of the remains of the decedent; and/or as to the arrangement for funeral goods and services to be provided.

WHEREFORE, petitioner prays:

1. that a hearing be held by the Court, at a time and place and on a date set by the Court, after such notice as required by law;
2. that the Court determine the person to be the most fit and appropriate to carry out the right of disposition and make decisions regarding the remains of the decedent, upon consideration of the factors set forth in O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7 (d) (2); and
3. that an appropriate order issue in accordance with the Court's determination of the right of disposition of the remains of the decedent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

Signature of Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ State Bar # \_\_\_\_\_

**VERIFICATION**

**GEORGIA, \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY**

Personally appeared before me the undersigned petitioner(s) who, after being duly sworn, state(s) that the facts set forth in the foregoing petition for determination of right of disposition of remains of a decedent (and the attached exhibit(s)) are true and correct.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY/CLERK OF PROBATE COURT  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Petitioner

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DECEASED**

)  
)  
)  
)

**ESTATE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION  
OF REMAINS OF A DECEDENT**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSENT**

I, the undersigned, being among those persons named in paragraph 3 of the petition for determination of right of disposition of remains of decedent, do hereby acknowledge service of notice of the filing of the petition and consent to the determination by the Court of the right of disposition of the remains of decedent and acknowledge that it is our responsibility to contact the Court to determine the date, time, and place of the hearing.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY/CLERK OF PROBATE COURT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY/CLERK OF PROBATE COURT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

***NOTICE***

***THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PETITIONER (MOVING PARTY) UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COURT.***

***SEE UNIFORM PROBATE COURT RULE 5.6 (A).***

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE:** \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 )  
 ) **ESTATE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DECEASED** )

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION  
OF REMAINS OF A DECEDENT**

**ORDER FOR SERVICE OF NOTICE**

The petition for determination of right of disposition of remains of a decedent having been filed, read, and considered, and it appearing to the Court that disagreement exists among two or more persons with the same relationship to the decedent for purposes of the right to dispose of the remains as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7,

**IT IS ORDERED** that a hearing on the petition shall be held on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.. in Courtroom \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ County courthouse.

**IT IS ORDERED** that notice of the time, date, and place of the hearing be issued and served upon the following:

*[Initial all that apply]*

\_\_\_\_ Those persons, other than the petitioner, if applicable, with the same relationship to the decedent for purposes of the right to dispose of the remains as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7 named in paragraph 3 of the petition (including)(excluding) those persons named in paragraph 5 of such petition. Service of notice shall be by personal service to an employee of the funeral home having possession of the remains of decedent (unless the funeral home is the petitioner) and to any of those persons named in paragraph 3 of such petition who reside in this state, and by registered or certified mail or statutory overnight delivery, return receipt requested to any of said persons who are not residents of this state not less than 30 days prior to the hearing.

\_\_\_\_ The funeral home in present custody of the remains of the decedent. Service of such notice shall be by personal service if said party resides in this State, or by registered or certified mail or statutory overnight delivery, return receipt requested, if said party resides outside of this State notifying him/her/them of the right to be and appear at the hearing and to be heard concerning the right of disposition of the remains of the decedent. Service of notice of such petition shall be made as provided in O.C.G.A. § 15-9-86.

SO ORDERED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge of the Probate Court



**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE:**

\_\_\_\_\_,  
**DECEASED**

)  
)  
)  
)

**ESTATE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION  
OF REMAINS OF A DECEDENT**

**NOTICE**

GEORGIA, \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY PROBATE COURT

TO: *[All persons upon whom the Court has ordered service of notice of the hearing.]* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**BE NOTIFIED THAT:** \_\_\_\_\_

has filed a petition for the Court to determine the right of disposition of the remains of the decedent named above. A hearing has been set by the Court on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. in Courtroom \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ County courthouse. Those persons upon whom service has been ordered may be and appear before the Court at such hearing and be heard concerning the right of disposition of the remains of the decedent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge of the Probate Court

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Probate Court

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE:** \_\_\_\_\_ )  
\_\_\_\_\_, ) **ESTATE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DECEASED** )

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that I have this date mailed (unless otherwise noted) in an envelope with the proper postage affixed thereto for delivery via registered or certified mail or overnight statutory delivery, return receipt requested, copies of the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to the following parties at the addresses below:

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Probate Court

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 )  
\_\_\_\_\_, ) ESTATE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
DECEASED )

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION  
OF REMAINS OF A DECEDENT**

**FINAL ORDER**

The petition of \_\_\_\_\_ for determination of the right of disposition of the remains of the decedent named above having been filed, and

The same having come before the Court at the place and time and on the date set by the Court, and

Upon hearing and considering the evidence presented to the Court, taking into account those factors set forth in O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7 (d) (2), the Court finds that \_\_\_\_\_ is the most fit and proper person to make decisions concerning the disposition of the remains of the decedent.

**WHEREUPON, IT IS ORDERED** that \_\_\_\_\_ shall have the sole and exclusive right to make all decisions concerning the disposition of the remains of the decedent, including but not limited to the location, manner and conditions of disposition of the remains of the decedent and/or as to the arrangement for funeral goods and services to be provided; provided, however, that expenses and costs of same shall not exceed a reasonable amount under the circumstances of the estate of the decedent and the ability of the estate to bear such expenses and costs.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the clerk shall notify the funeral home by telephone that a copy of the order may be obtained from the Court, which copy may, upon request, be transmitted by facsimile or by attachment to electronic mail; and shall mail via First-Class Mail a copy of the order to all interested persons named in the petition.

*[Initial if applicable]*

\_\_\_\_\_ **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the costs of these proceedings and the reasonable attorney fees for the filing of same that were incurred and paid by the funeral home may be added to the cost of final disposition of the remains of the decedent.

**SO ORDERED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge of the Probate Court

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE:** \_\_\_\_\_ )  
\_\_\_\_\_, ) **ESTATE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DECEASED** )

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION  
OF REMAINS OF A DECEDENT**

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I do hereby certify that I have this day:

*[Initial all that apply]*

\_\_\_\_\_ notified the funeral home by telephone that a copy of the order may be obtained from the Court (and, at the request of the funeral home,)(transmitted a copy of the order by facsimile)(transmitted a copy as an attachment to electronic mail).

\_\_\_\_\_ mailed by First-Class Mail a copy of the order to each person upon whom service of notice was ordered by placing a copy of same in an envelope, properly addressed and with adequate postage thereon, and deposited in the U.S. Mail, with the return address of this Court thereon.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Probate Court

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number