

CHAPTER 31  
DISPOSITIONS INDEPENDENT OF LETTERS;  
FAMILY EXEMPTIONS; PROBATE OF WILLS AND  
GRANT OF LETTERS

A. Dispositions Independent of Letters

¶260. SECTION 3101. [PAYMENT OF WAGES, SALARY, VACATION BENEFITS TO FAMILY] *PAYMENTS TO FAMILY* {1976} AND *FUNERAL DIRECTORS* {1980}.—(a) *Wages, salary or employee benefits* {1980}.—Any employer of a person dying domiciled in [the] *this* {1980} Commonwealth at any time after the death of the employee, whether or not a personal representative has been appointed, may pay wages, salary or any [accrued vacation] *employee benefits* [or pension] {1976} due the deceased in an amount not exceeding [\$1,000] {1972} [\$2,000] {1974} [\$3,500] {1975} \$5,000 {1994} to the spouse, any child, the father or mother, or any sister or brother (preference being given in the order named) of the deceased employee. Any employer making such a payment shall be released to the same extent as if payment had been made to a duly appointed personal representative of the decedent and he shall not be required to see to the application thereof. Any person to whom payment is made shall be answerable therefor to anyone prejudiced by an improper distribution. Amended, L. 1974, Act No. 84, effective May 10, 1974; L. 1975, Act No. 168, effective December 19, 1975; L. 1976, Act No. 135, effective July 9, 1976; L. 1980, Act No. 118, effective September 9, 1980; amended, L. 1994, Act No. 102, effective January 30, 1995, and applicable to the estates of decedents dying on or after such date.

(b) *Deposit account*.—Any bank, savings association, savings and loan association, building and loan association, credit union or other savings organization, at any time after the death of a depositor, member or certificate holder, may pay the amount on deposit or represented by the certificate, when the total standing to the credit of the decedent in that institution does not exceed [\$1,500] {1980} \$3,500 {1993}, to the spouse, any child, the father or mother or any sister or brother (preference being given in the order named) of the deceased depositor, member or certificate holder, provided that a receipted funeral bill or an affidavit, executed by a licensed funeral director which sets forth that satisfactory arrangements for payment of fu-