

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1277



Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There is a sudden surge of funeral agents going into various hospitals like the Justice Jose Abad Santos Mother and Child Hospital, Ospital ng Tondo, Ospital ng Maynila, Sta. Ana Hospital, Ospital ng Sampaloc and Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center and presumably other hospitals or medical centers in the country in search of prospective clients.

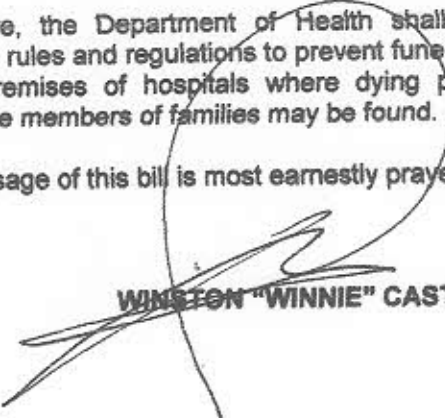
In fact, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, in the case of the City of Manila ordered hospital directors to ban or prohibit funeral agents from sneaking inside hospital premises especially when they are in search of an immediate family member of a dying patient or terminally-ill and causing this prospective client to sign a contract.

This is not just morally anachronistic. Hospitals are there to run to in order to insure that patients come out alive and well. And doctors in the hospitals are likely minded to keep their patients alive and well as possible.

Thus, it is an insult to the role of hospitals and the core thrust of medical practice when funeral agents as much as attempt to invade the premises asking or in fact looking for dying or terminally-ill patients in an intent to forge a contract with the immediate family member.

Under the measure, the Department of Health shall prescribe appropriate penalties and shall institute rules and regulations to prevent funeral agents from initiating transactions inside the premises of hospitals where dying patients or terminally-ill patients and their immediate members of families may be found.

The immediate passage of this bill is most earnestly prayed.


WINSTON "WINNIE" CASTELO

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AN ACT
BANNING A FUNERAL AGENT FROM ENTRY INTO ANY HOSPITAL WITH INTENT
OF HAVING A FAMILY MEMBER OF A DYING OR TERMINALLY-ILL PATIENT SIGN
A CONTRACT AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES IN VIOLATION THEREOF

Be it enacted in Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared banned or prohibited for a funeral agent to enter a hospital to have a family member of a dying or terminally-ill patient sign a contract as the same is grossly in violation of the universal goal of every hospital and the medical practice.

SEC. 2. Appropriate penalties in violation thereof shall be prescribed by the Department of Health.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Department of Health shall issue pertinent rules and regulations to carry out the provision of this Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least three newspapers of general circulation thirty days upon its approval.

Approved,

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