

proceeds thereof, after deducting therefrom any funeral expenses incurred under the provisions of this Article, and the sums paid as assistance, shall be paid to the recipient's estate.

11. **PAYMENTS TO INCOMPETENTS.** If any applicant or recipient is incompetent or unable to handle the assistance granted him, and has no legal guardian or committee, the Circuit Courts of the counties, or the Equity Courts of Baltimore City, upon petition of any County Department, and with the consent of the next of kin, next friend, natural guardian or custodian of the applicant or recipient, shall have the power after notice and hearing to appoint a competent person as his guardian for old age assistance, without bond, whose duty it shall be without compensation to receive and disburse the recipient's assistance on his behalf and to make true and accurate account thereof as often as required. Funds in the hands of any such guardian for old age assistance shall be expended only for the purposes contemplated by this Article, or as directed in the grant of assistance.

12. **FUNERAL EXPENSES.** On the death of the recipient reasonable funeral expenses, not exceeding one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) may, subject to the rules and regulations of the State Department, be paid by the County Department if the estate of the deceased is insufficient to pay the same and the persons legally responsible for the support of the deceased are unable to pay the same.

13. **ASSISTANCE NOT ASSIGNABLE.** Assistance granted under this Article shall not be transferable or assignable, at law or in equity, and none of the money paid or payable under this Article shall be subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment or other legal process, or to the operation of any bankruptcy or insolvency law.

14. **APPEAL TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.** If an application is not acted upon by the County Department within a reasonable time after the filing of the application, or is denied in whole or in part, or if any award of assistance is modified or cancelled under any provision of this Article, the applicant or recipient may appeal to the State Department in the manner and form prescribed by the State Department. The State Department shall, upon receipt of such an appeal, give the applicant or recipient reasonable notice and opportunity for a fair hearing.

The State Department may also, upon its own motion, review any decision of a County Department, and may consider any application upon which a decision has not been made by the County Department within a reasonable time. The State