

CHAPTER 55 - FINDINGS OF PRESUMED DEATH

[SECTION 55.010](#)

Finding of presumed death admissible in evidence.

[SECTION 55.020](#)

Official written reports admissible in evidence.

[SECTION 55.030](#)

Signed findings, reports, records and certified copies as prima facie evidence.

SECTION 55.010 Finding of presumed death admissible in evidence. A written finding of presumed death, made by the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, or other officer or employee of the United States authorized to make such finding, pursuant to the Federal Missing Persons Act (56 Stat. 143, 1092, and P.L. 408, ch. 371, second session Seventy-eighth Congress; 50 U.S.C. App. Supp. 1001-17), as now or hereinafter amended, or a duly certified copy of such finding, shall be received in any court, office or other place in this State as evidence of the death of the person therein found to be dead, and of the date, circumstances and place of his disappearance as far as the same may be disclosed by such finding.

SECTION 55.020 Official written reports admissible in evidence. An official written report or record, or duly certified copy thereof, that a person is missing, missing in action, interned in a neutral country, or beleaguered, besieged, or captured by an enemy, or is dead, or is alive, made by any officer or employee of the United States authorized to make same by the Act referred to in [SECTION 55.010](#) or by any other law of the United States, shall be received in any court, office or other place in this State as evidence that such person is missing, missing in action, interned in a neutral country, or beleaguered, besieged, or captured by an enemy, or is dead, or is alive, as the case may be.

SECTION 55.030 Signed findings, reports, records and certified copies as prima facie evidence. For the purposes of [SECTION 55.010](#) and [55.020](#) any finding, report or record, or duly certified copy thereof, purporting to have been signed by such an officer or employee of the United States as is described in those sections, shall prima facie be deemed to have been signed and issued by such an officer or employee pursuant to law, and the person signing same shall prima facie be deemed to have acted within the scope of his authority. If a copy purports to have been certified by a person authorized by law to certify the same, such certified copy shall be prima facie evidence of his authority so to certify.