

RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Cemetery Rules and Regulations

For the mutual protection of every lot purchaser, these rules and regulations are hereby adopted by the Ridgefield Township Trustees as of July 9, 2019. All graves and lots sold and all visitors to the cemetery shall be subject to the rules and regulations and to any amendments that follow.

Section 1 Deeds

Section 2 Interments

Section 3 Interment Rights

Section 4 Disinterment

Section 5 Decorations, Flowers, and Landscape

Section 6 Monuments, Memorials, and Markers

Section 7 Liabilities and Responsibilities

Section 8 General

Ridgefield Township Cemetery Rules and Regulations

1. DEEDS

1.1 No purchaser of a grave will be considered the owner until the lot is fully paid for and a Cemetery Grave Purchase Agreement has been fully executed. At the time of payment, or at a subsequent Township meeting, a deed will be issued to the purchaser as evidence of ownership.

1.2 A deed to a grave conveys interment rights only with the title to the real property remaining in the name of the Ridgefield Township Board of Trustees.

1.3 As owner of the real property, the Township retains control and supervision of all graves which have been sold.

1.4 A deed does not confer the right to sell, transfer, or assign a grave or any portion thereof.

1.5 Owners and heirs of graves shall make the Township aware of any changes to ownership or heirs upon death.

1.6 The record of deeds is kept in the possession of the Township and is the only evidence of ownership of a grave or lot recognized by the Township Trustees.

2. INTERMENTS

2.1 Fees for an interment shall be paid in advance of an interment in accordance with the schedule of fees in effect at that time. No interment shall be permitted until the Township has received full payment.

2.2 No interment shall be made unless the remains are accompanied by an interment permit or cremation certificate.

2.3 Interments shall be made only by the Township, its employees, or its authorized agents.

2.4 A minimum of twenty-four (24) hour notice is required for the preparation of a grave site.

2.5 Unless immediate interment is ordered by the Board of Health, interments are not to be performed on Sundays and the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Should a situation arise where an interment is to be performed on a Sunday or any of the aforementioned holidays the interment fee shall be double the standard rate in effect at that time.

2.6 All outer interment cases shall be made of cement, concrete, steel, or other materials sufficiently strong enough to hold up the grave load, and which will not deteriorate from underground conditions.

2.7 Cremation remains shall be interred in a sealed urn.

3. INTERMENT RIGHTS

3.1 The number of interments which may be made upon a lot is definitely fixed and no additional interments will be permitted. The number of interments shall be as follows: one (1) full interment and up to two (2) inurnments or, if no full interment, up to four (4) inurnments.

3.2 All interments made upon lots shall be restricted to grave owners and immediate family members of the grave owner, unless the Township approves an alternative arrangement. "Immediate Family Member" means: Parent, Spouse, Child, Sibling, Grandparent.

3.3 A grave owner desiring to allow another person (non-immediate family member) to use his or her grave for interment must give his or her request and consent to same in writing to the Township, either to the Township Trustees or the Sexton. Township has full discretion to approve or deny such a request.

3.4 The location of a grave upon any lot shall be determined by the Township, its employees, or its authorized agent.

3.5 The owner of a grave, as evidenced by the record of deeds, may at any time designate the person whom he or she wishes to have interred in the grave. Such designation shall be made in writing and recorded in the books of the Township.

3.6 If the owner of a grave does not designate a person to be interred in his or her grave, upon the death of the grave owner, the Township will recognize the surviving spouse or next of kin of the deceased owner as having the right to interment upon the grave, in order of their deaths, until said grave is fully occupied. The Township shall make this decision insofar as it is able to ascertain the identities of such parties and shall not be responsible for errors committed for making such determination.

3.7 If the owner of a grave does not designate a person to be interred in his or her grave during his or her lifetime and if there is no surviving spouse or next of kin, the heirs of the owner may, by a written agreement signed by all heirs, determine who among them shall have the right of interment of said grave.

3.8 The Township reserves the right to refuse the granting of interment rights to any person unless such person exhibits to the Township the deed or indenture to the grave upon which the interment is requested or can be sufficiently verified as having a right to interment in that grave by the Township records.

3.9 No sale, transfer, or assignment of any grave shall be valid without approval of the Township, as endorsed on the conveyance by the Township Trustees.

3.10 Sales, transfers, and assignments of graves are privileges which may be granted or refused by the Township after due investigation and at the sole discretion of the Township Trustees.

3.11 Purchaser shall comply with notification requirements set forth in R.C. 517.07 and the Cemetery Grave Purchase Agreement.

3.12 The Board of Township Trustees may repurchase a grave that was purchased after July 24, 1986 at a price mutually agreed upon by the owner and the Board. Any graves purchased prior to July 24, 1986 may be repurchased by the Board at its original sale price.

4. DISINTERMENT

4.1 A written application of the next of kin of a person interred in the cemetery is required for disinterment.

4.2 The Township will make a disinterment upon receipt of the proper permit issued by the Health Department, or a proper legal order.

4.3 When such disinterment arrangements are made, delivery of the remains shall be made to the applicant upon payment of the reasonable cost and expense of such disinterment, in accordance with the fee schedule and any other charges in effect at that time.

5. DECORATIONS, FLOWERS, AND LANDSCAPE

5.1 Live landscape and artificial decorations may be used at gravesites.

5.2 All flowers or baskets used in funeral displays are the property of the grave owner. Such funeral displays shall be removed within seventy-two (72) hours after interment. If the flower(s) or basket(s) is not claimed within 72 hours or before the contents are deteriorated, such will become property of the Township.

5.3 The planting of any decorative trees or shrub is expressly prohibited. Any and all decorative trees and shrubs, however planted and wherever situated in the cemetery, are property of the Township.

5.4 Planting of larger shrubs and trees is expressly prohibited.

5.5 Planted flowers and landscape must comply with these Rules & Regulations.

5.6 Any trees or shrubs which shall become detrimental to any lot, grave, street, or other property, or those which are dangerous, inconvenient, or obstructive to the necessary work of the Township, may be removed or trimmed at the sole discretion of the Trustees.

5.7 The Township shall have the right to remove any flowers or planted landscape which become wilted or unsightly.

5.8 The Township reserves the right to remove all flowers, potted plants, wreaths, or other decorations when frosted, faded, withered, or otherwise worn or damaged.

5.9 The placing of boxes, toys, or similar articles upon graves or lots must be in memorials designed to incorporate them.

5.10 Any item placed upon a grave or lot must be of substantial nature, and approval from the Township must be secured in advance of placement.

5.11 The Township is not responsible for any item placed on a grave or lot in any area.

5.12 Rusty, unpainted, or broken vases, seats, benches, or similar items, will be removed by the Township.

5.13 Each grave shall be restricted to no more than two (2) decorations and each must be kept in-line with the headstone. Additionally, decorations and flowers shall not extend more than 8" in front of the headstone. Decorations and flowers may be removed by the Township two weeks after placement on a grave.

5.14 There shall be no curbing, fencing, or enclosures of any type around lots or graves. Additionally, wire, glass, and shepherd's hooks are strictly prohibited.

5.15 Subject to any more restrictive time requirement, any owner notified, either by phone or mail, to remove any item from their grave or lot will have 90 days to do so or the Township will remove the same.

5.16 Special exceptions may be made by the Township to new gravesites during the first 12 months of grieving.

5.17 The Township shall not be liable for any loss or damage to any decoration, flower, or landscape.

6. MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS, AND MARKERS

6.1 A lot is restricted to a maximum of one (1) headstone per grave. (Unless the deed has been transfer too a two (2) graves for another family.) This rules may not apply. Other headstones on the same grave must be of the flat/flush style. (All changes needs approval by the Ridgefield Township Trustees.)

6.2 A lot with multiple grave sites, e.g. multiple interred cremation remains, may have multiple flat/flush headstones but the lot is subject to the one (1) erect headstone per grave restriction. (All changes needs the approval by Ridgefield Township Trustees.)

6.3 The maximum dimensions of a headstone are 24 inches in height by 36 inches in width. In the event the family of a decedent would like to erect a larger headstone, it must obtain permission from the Board of Trustees of Ridgefield Township. Said permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.

6.4 All foundations, for monuments, memorials, markers, mausoleums, tombs, or other like structures shall be installed by the Township, its employees its authorized agents, and monument companies, or a party approved by the Township. No person , other than those listed immediately above, is permitted to perform work on any lot in the cemetery.

6.5 The Township shall have the right to prohibit, modify, or remove any monument, memorial, marker, or other structure which is considered injurious to the lot or grave, adjoining lots, or other cemetery property, at the sole discretion of the Trustees.

6.6 The Township shall have the right to prohibit, modify, or remove any monument, memorial marker, or structure which is considered objectionable to the general public or general appearance of the cemetery, at the sole discretion of the Trustees.

6.7 Should any monument, memorial, or marker become unsightly, dilapidated, or a menace to visitors, the Township shall have the right to either correct the condition or to remove the same at the expense of the lot owner.

6.8 A funeral directors' temporary grave marker (s) may be left at the gravesite for up to one (1) year.

7. LIABILTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 The Township shall not be responsible for any mistake occurring as to the particular space, size, or location of the lot where an interment is desired.

7.2 The Township shall not be liable for any activity in the care and maintenance of the cemetery. The Township shall use reasonable care in engaging competent and experienced cemetery employees and workmen, and in overseeing the work they perform.

7.3 The Township explicitly disclaims any responsibility for any accident or damage to person or property, including monuments, memorials, marks, vases, or any other property, resulting in any way from the ordinary performance of cemetery work.

7.4 The Township will take reasonable precautions to protect lot and grave owners and their property rights, within the cemetery, from loss or damage, but it distinctly disclaims all responsibility of loss or damage from causes beyond its control.

7.5 In no event shall the Township be responsible for damage caused by acts of vandalism.

8. GENERAL

8.1 The cemetery shall be open at dawn and closed at dusk.

8.2 No visitor shall disturb, remove, or move any monument, memorial, marker, or market, or any other property not owned or under authority of the visitor.

8.3 Alcohol and firearms are expressly prohibited on all cemetery property.

8.4 Children visiting the cemetery shall be accompanied by an adult and are subject to control of the adult responsible for them.

8.5 Dogs, at all times while on the cemetery grounds, shall be on a leash and under the control of the owner (s) responsible for them.

8.6 Advertising of any type is strictly prohibited within the cemetery. Trademarks etched into memorials are not considered advertising.

8.7 All grading and ground improvements shall be done by the Township Trustees, their employees, or their authorized agents.

8.8 The cemetery sexton shall be contacted for any sales transactions or inquiries.

8.9 Anything not expressly permitted by these Rules and Regulations shall be prohibited unless otherwise approved by the Township Trustees.

8.10 Only human remains may be interred in any burial lot. Pets burials are expressly prohibited.

8.11 The maximum number of graves which may be Deeded by a person is set at two (2).

8.12 The Township shall comply with all requirements of R.C. -9.15 regarding indigent burials.

8.13 These rules supersede all previous rules and regulations of the Township's cemeteries.

David O. Scheler Trustee
Robert W. Scheler Trustee
Joseph H. Strong Trustee

Karen Dries, D.O.

Adapted July 9, 2019

Ridgefield Township

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