

Olmsted County Health, Housing and Human Services Department  
Policy Statement

Code: 4.601

TITLE: County Burial Policy

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to establish burial costs paid by the County under the Minnesota Family Investment Program and Minnesota Poor Relief Law.

REFERENCE: Minnesota Statutes 261.035; Minnesota Statutes 149A.80; and Minnesota Statutes 256.935 (Minnesota Family Investment Program)

PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE: County Burial Assistance Team/Financial Assistance Supervisor(s)

EFFECTIVE: January 1, 1990.  
Revised: Dec-94; Sept-98; Feb-03; Jul-03; Mar-06; Jan-08; Apr-09; Aug-14;  
Nov-18

POLICY:

Under Minnesota Statutes, the County is required to provide for the final disposition of indigent persons. Policies pertaining to burials are at the discretion of the County Board to the extent that they do not conflict with special provisions in state law or regulations for MFIP burials. A burial is considered a MFIP burial if the deceased was a recipient of MFIP at the time of death. Otherwise, the burial is a County Poor Relief burial.

If the County assumes financial responsibility for the final disposition, it cannot exceed the County allowances. There cannot be any enhancements.

Based on the deceased and next of kin preferences, options for the disposition will be **direct cremation** or **immediate burial**.

Resources of the deceased, family and community will be considered in determining eligibility. This includes memorials and funds raised on behalf of the deceased. Those who do not have sufficient funds to pay for the burial can apply for assistance for the remaining costs providing Olmsted County standards have been used.

**Authorization and approval of a county burial must be received prior to making funeral plans.** The family/funeral home will be expected to work closely with county staff to ensure fair but cost-effective arrangements.

Eligibility must be determined by the County of Financial Responsibility. Extenuating or unusual circumstances not otherwise addressed specifically in this policy will be reviewed and approved amongst burial team members and management.

ALLOWANCES:

**1. Direct Cremation. Maximum \$1,858.**

This includes local removal, care of remains, transfer of deceased to crematory, basic services of staff, authorization, crematory charge, and a nondecorative remains container. Excludes ceremony, visitation, and cemetery charges, however, may include a short time of remembrance/memorial. The County does not pay for interment of ashes.

The County will not pay for enhancements such as, but not limited to, flowers, honorariums, music, processions, clothes, printed material, food, or other related items.

*(Note: Regional Medical Examiner's Office will waive the cremation fee for county burials within Olmsted County's jurisdiction)*

**2. Immediate Burial. Maximum \$2,700.**

This includes local removal, care of remains, vault/grave box at invoice, transfer of deceased to funeral home, basic services of staff, authorization, basic casket, and transfer of deceased to local area cemetery. Excludes ceremony, visitation, and non-essential cemetery charges, however, may include a short time of remembrance/memorial.

The County will not pay for enhancements or items such as, but not limited to, flowers, honorariums, music, processions, clothes, printed material, food, or other related items.

**3. Cemetery Allowances**

a) **Grave opening and closing.** This is limited to Monday-Friday with adjustments permitted for winter months. Opening/closing costs are limited to 75% of the current cemetery rate.

b) **Cemetery lot.** Olmsted County utilizes pre-purchased burial plots at local cemeteries.

- i. The County does not pay for cemetery markers/headstone.
- ii. The County does not pay for decorative cremation containers.
- iii. The County does not pay to transport deceased outside of Olmsted County (for burial in another cemetery plot) unless it would be cost-effective to do so.

| Approved by   | Last review/approval date                     | Authors   |
|---|---|---|
| OCCS Senior Management Team                               | 11/08/2005;                                   | C.Hoglund, B.Arendt, M.Brown, M.Wilson, B.Schmidt       |
| Human Service Committee<br>County Board                   | 3/24/2009<br>2/28/2006; 4/14/2009             |   |
| OCCS Senior Management Team                               | 7/2014 – [minor<br>administrative edits only] | H. Welsch; M. Brown; B. Schmidt; P. Jacobson            |
| Health, Housing, Human Services<br>Senior Management Team | 11/2018                                       | R. Holden, K. Krampitz, L. Lopez, R. Olson, L. Peterson |