



Cemetery Regulations

Ashland Township
Newaygo County

Adopted July 14, 2009

Amended August 10; December 14, 2010 & March 1, 2016

Marvin Geers	Supervisor
Margaret Goodmonson	Clerk
Michelle McKinlay	Treasurer
William Butchart	Trustee
Gary Nelsen	Trustee

Burial Appointments

Because of the possibility of a conflict of schedules and sexton availability, Ashland Township encourages all funeral directors to contact the Ashland Township Sexton for available burial time before final arrangements are made for interment.

Please note that interment appointments must be confirmed by the sexton who has discretionary authority regarding the time of the actual burial.

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Regulations No: 030116

Adopted: March 1, 2016

Effective: March 1, 2016

The Regulations to compile and re-enact cemetery Regulations; and to address burials, ownership and maintenance in the Ashland Township Cemeteries.

The Township of Ashland, Newaygo County Michigan ordains:

0.5 Identification of Township Cemeteries.

This Regulations and any Regulations adopted pursuant hereto are for Township-owned cemeteries identified as

Ashland Center Cemetery	Section 22, T11N R13
Danish Lutheran Cemetery	Section 24, T11N, R13W
Shippy Cemetery	Section 33, T11N. R13W

1.0 Burials

1.1 Remains.

- A. All burials shall be required to be placed within a concrete box, concrete vault, or metal vault. Any waiver to this Regulations shall be approved by the Township Board and a suitable substitute container for such purpose shall be specified by said Board.
- B. There shall be no more than one (1) full size vault with one (1) cremains vault or two (2) cremains vault in one (1) grave site.
- C. The fee for grave opening shall be per rate schedule as prescribed and approved by the Township Board.
- D. Cremains: Definition-an approved vault that does not exceed 20" in length, 10 "in height and 10" in width.
- E. Burial of approved cremains containers shall be performed by the cemetery sexton or employee of the Township.
- F. Cremains shall not be permitted to be scattered upon the ground of any of the Township cemeteries.
- G. The fee for such burial shall be per rate schedule as prescribed and approved by the Township Board.
- H. Grave side services from November 15th each year to April 1st of the following year, must be approved by the cemetery sexton.

2.0 Right To Burial.

2.1 Sale Regulations

- A. All sales of burial space shall be by individual grave site only.
- B. No more than four (4) grave sites may be purchased by a resident property owner without the approval of the Township Board.
- C. Sale of grave sites to non-residents is prohibited.
- D. The Right to Burial in an assigned lot or gave site in the cemeteries in Ashland Township shall be subject to the cemetery Regulations as adopted and/or amended by the Township Board.

2.2 Fees

- A. Resident property owner \$50.00 per grave site
- B. Resident non-property owner \$200.00 per grave site

2.3 Cemetery Lot Certificate of Right to Burial

- A. Shall be issued by the Township Office and records kept by the Township Clerk.
- B. No lot or grave site shall be transferred to another owner without the consent of an authorized representative of the Township Clerk's office.
- C. Forfeiture of vacant cemetery lots or burial spaces.
 - 1. Cemetery lots or grave spaces sold and remaining vacant 40 years from the date of sale shall automatically revert The Right to Burial to the Township upon occurrence of both of the following events:
 - a. A notice shall be sent by the Township Clerk by first class mail to the last known address of the holder of the Right To Burial certificate on record informing them of the following:
 - the expiration of the 40 year period,
 - forfeiture of all rights to the stated lots and/or spaces, and
 - a 60 day grace period from the date of postage within which they must affirm in writing their intent to retain burial rights, and,
 - b. No response is received by the Township Clerk from the holder of the Right to Burial certificate or his/her legal representative within the 60 day grace period.
 - c. With township board approval.
 - 2. Cemetery lots or spaces that have had the Right to Burial forfeited according to the guidelines of 2.3.C.1 shall become property of the township without any other conveyance or proceedings. The township may thereupon sell and convey the Right to Burial of such spaces to others as permitted within these regulations.

3.0 Maintenance

3.1 Headstones and Markers

- A. The Township Board reserves the right to limit the number of headstones, military plaque stones, military flag holders and all other grave markers and/or monuments per grave site.
- B. All headstones, markers and monuments shall be placed at the head of the grave site- except military plaques may be placed at the foot of the grave site.
- C. Footings for all headstones, markers and monuments shall be placed and installed by the sexton
- D. Footings are to be constructed of concrete of sufficient size and depth so as to support headstone, marker or monument
- E. Fees for footing installation shall be as per rate schedule as prescribed and approved by the Township Board
- F. All burials must be identified with an approved township marker.

3.2 Plantings

- A. There shall be no shrubs or trees planted by anyone other than the sexton of the cemetery or employee of the Township as authorized by the Township Board.
- B. All tree and shrub types shall be prescribed by the Township Board.
- C. Grass seeding or placement of sod upon any grave or lot in the cemeteries shall be done only by the sexton or employee of the Township.

3.3 Decorations

- A. Burial spaces are limited to one urn OR one hanging flower basket stake, **ALL OTHER DECORATIONS ARE PROHIBITED.**
- B. All artificial lighting **IS** prohibited.
- C. All urns or stakes intended for decorative purposes must be placed in line with the headstones or monuments or as near to them as possible.
- D. All fresh cut flowers, potted plants or artificial flowers must be contained in concrete, metal, or plastic urns, or in other similar containers of like material. There shall be no glass containers of any kind used for this purpose.
- E. All containers must be movable.
- F. Wreaths and/or floral arrangements mounted on styrofoam shall not be permitted at any time.
- G. Wreaths and/or floral arrangements on wire stands shall be limited to being placed in the cemeteries from October 15th each year to March 31st of the following year.
- H. Winter clean up will begin October 1st of each year. All flowers, plants, non-urn containers and other decorations will be removed. All urns will be emptied and inverted.

EXCEPT TOWNSHIP PROVIDED MEMORIAL VETERAN FLAGS WHICH WILL BE REMOVED BY TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL AFTER VETERANS DAY (NOVEMBER 11)

THE CEMETERY SEXTON AND/OR TOWNSHIP BOARD RESERVE THE AUTHORITY TO REMOVE ANY AND ALL GROWTH, EMBLEMS, CONTAINERS OR URNS THAT ARE DETERMINED TO BE UNSIGHTLY, A SOURCE OF LITTER, A MAINTENANCE PROBLEM, AND ALL DECORATIONS THAT ARE PROHIBITED.

CEMETERY FEES

The following rates apply per opening.

Disinterment		\$500.00 not to exceed \$2500.00
Full size grave	(Resident)	300.00
Baby grave	(Resident)	100.00
Cremations Burial	(Resident)	150.00
Past Resident Property Owner, Full Size		300.00
Non-Resident		600.00
Resident Non Property Owner		600.00
All other Baby or Cremation Openings		300.00
Transfer fee of burial rights to non-resident		200.00

All Burials on Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holiday (New Years Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day) **there shall be an additional charge of \$175.00**

The Cemetery Sexton shall collect Grave Opening and Burial "Fees and remit fees to the Ashland Township Clerk. Checks be made payable to Ashland Township.

Fees for Grave Opening shall apply for both summer and winter.

Snow conditions may require additional charges for snow removal. If conditions require equipment other than what is possessed by Ashland Township, the party requesting the burial will be charged the actual cost of such equipment, with an advanced payment of \$200.00. Any difference will be billed or refunded.

Any waiver of the Regulations or Fees shall be approved by the Ashland Township Board.

3.4 Severability. The various provisions of this Regulations are severable from each other. Any part or portion that is deemed invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction shall not affect the validity of any other part or portion of this Regulations.

3.5 Savings Clause. Any burial rights that have been granted under prior versions of this Regulations: any actions taken by the Township Clerk, Township Sexton, Township Board and/or Township employees in accordance with former provisions of this Regulations and/or Regulations of the Township Board related to cemeteries are ratified and preserved.

3.6 Effective Date and Repeal. This Regulations shall take effect on the day after publication of a

summary thereof, after adoption by the Township Board.

Ashland Township, Margaret Goodmonson, Clerk; 2019 W. 120th St, P.O. Box 457, Grant MI 49327 WWW.ashtwp.org

CEMETERY FOOTING CHARGES

The approved rate schedule for foundations for headstones, monuments or markers installed in the cemeteries of Ashland Township, is as follows.

35 cents per sq inch with a minimum charge of \$60.00

There shall be no charge for the footing that holds the plaque given in memory of the veteran by the U.S. government. However, if a party desires to mount the plaque on a headstone/monument other than the township-provided footing or add additional names and/or information to the township-provided footing, then the requesting party must bear the cost of the footing at the current rate.