

**ACME TOWNSHIP
CEMETERIES
RULES AND REGULATIONS
(ACME AND YUBA)**

Updated March 15, 2023

For information not included in this brochure
please contact the Acme Township Office:

6042 Acme Road
Williamsburg, Michigan 49690
(231) 938-1350
Fax (231) 938-1510

ACME TOWNSHIP
CEMETERY
RULES AND REGULATIONS

The purpose of the Rules and Regulations is to ensure that the facilities, structures and grounds of the Cemeteries remain a quiet respectful place for the remains of those interred and for those who visit and enjoy the serenity. It is the desire of the Township to maintain a cemetery which is respectful, aesthetically attractive and a community asset. At the same time, it is expected that operations will be undertaken to maintain this asset in a fiscally responsible and safe manner.

The following Rules and Regulations will be a supplement to the Acme Township Cemetery Ordinance and provide guidance and expectations to those purchasing burial spaces.

Rules to meet the before-mentioned purposes are as follows:

General Regulations:

- a) Access: No one shall enter or leave except by established and open entrances or gateways established by the Township.
- b) Alcohol: No person shall carry or consume any alcoholic beverages in any Acme Township cemetery.
- c) Animals: No person shall allow any domestic animal to be upon or to run at large in any Township cemetery, except guide dogs accompanying the visual impaired.
- d) Firearms: No person shall carry any firearms in a Township cemetery, except in escort accompanying a veteran's funeral or memorial services or upon written permission from the Grand Traverse Sheriff or the designated Acme Township Deputy Sheriff.
- e) Hours: The Acme Township Cemeteries shall be open to the general public from dawn to dusk of each day of the week.
- f) Lawns: Persons shall use designated roads and pathways in any Township cemetery. No person shall walk, ride or drive upon or across a cemetery plot or cemetery lawn except for walking necessary to gain access to a cemetery plot.
- g) Littering: No person shall litter in any Township cemetery.
- h) Plant Destruction: No person shall pluck any flowers or break any trees, shrubs, or plants in the Township Cemetery. An owner of a burial site shall be permitted to trim shrubs and trees or remove plants on his or her own plot.
- i) Property Destruction: No person shall deface, mar, write upon or otherwise injure any monument, design, decoration or other property in any Township Cemetery.
- j) Public Peace: No person shall disturb, sleep or lounge on benches, grass, mounds or other areas or engage in loud, boisterous, threatening, abusive, insulting, or indecent language or engage in any disorderly conduct or behavior tending to be a breach of the public peace.
- k) Signs: No person shall advertise or post signs within any Township cemetery
- l) Vehicles: No person shall operate a motor vehicle in any Township cemetery unless upon cemetery business. No person shall use any cemetery for the purpose of demonstrating any vehicle or instructing another or learning to drive a vehicle. Snowmobiles are not permitted in any Township cemetery. No person shall tow another vehicle within any township cemetery except in the case of a breakdown in the cemetery. Vehicles shall not be operated at a speed greater than 15 miles per hour.
- m) Vehicle Parking: No person shall park or leave a vehicle on any road in the any Township cemetery in such a manner as to prevent any other vehicle from passing. Vehicles shall not be left overnight in any Township cemetery.

Definitions:

"Burial Certificates" means a document issued by the Township confirming burial rights or the right to place human remains. All Cemetery Deeds previously issued by the Township are hereby deemed to be burial certificates.

- "General Maintenance" is designed to improve the overall appearance and condition of the cemeteries by the Township and shall include upkeep of drives, buildings, sewer (if applicable), water lines, irrigation and fences.
"Perpetual Care" includes "General Maintenance" plus: annual spring clean-up, periodic cutting of grass, removal of leaves, trimming of trees and shrubs, the leveling of sunken graves and monuments.

Burial Spaces:

- Residents or property owners within Acme Township, as well as non-residents of Acme Township may purchase burial spaces. Different fees apply, as stated under the 'Fees' heading below.
- Resale of purchased lots or plots to other persons is not allowed.
No sale or conveyance of any Burial Certificate or the rights therein or any part thereof, or interest therein, other than by operation of law, shall be effectual to sale or to convey any rights to any person, unless such sale or conveyance is made from the seller to the Township Clerk and to the purchaser and will be officially recorded by the office of the Township Clerk in the appropriate cemetery records.
- Trading of burial spaces is *not allowed* in Acme Township. When two or more certificate holders wish to trade cemetery lots or plots they must notify the Township Clerk and provide their original Burial Certificates. The Township Clerk will purchase back from each certificate holder their respective lots or plots at the originally purchased price. The certificate holders will purchase, at the current price, the new lot or plot and the Township Clerk will issue each person a new Burial Certificate and the appropriate records will be updated.
- Purchase of a plot or lot or the issuance of a Burial Certificate does not transfer ownership of cemetery property but is the transferring of the right of burial of human remains on that subject to the Cemetery Ordinances and Cemetery Rules as they may be amended.
- Payment of the Perpetual Care fee is required when a burial space is originally purchased, resold or transferred, unless prior payment for Perpetual Care has been made.
It is the duty of the Burial Certificate holder or in the case where the original burial certificate holder is deceased; the survivors are to notify the Township Clerk's office of any change in his or her mailing address.
- When a plot or lot is purchased by more than one person other than a husband and wife, each person's interest shall be joint with a right of survivorship.
- The ownership of burial rights to any lot or plot in an Acme Township cemetery passes to the joint survivor or, if none, to the heirs of the last surviving owner as stated on the certificate. It is the responsibility of the surviving heir to notify the Township Clerk of said transfer and address change.
- The resale of purchased cemetery lots or plots back to Acme Township is allowed at the original purchase price and must be accompanied by a notarized letter from the owner
- "Burial Space" also known as a plot (gravesite) may include:
-one full casket, or one adult casket and one infant casket, or two cremains, or one casket and one cremains per burial

Fees:

- The purchase price of each burial plot/gravesite for Acme Township residents or property owners is \$400.00. The cost is \$600.00 each for non-residents of Acme Township.
- A person requesting and authorizing a disinterment will assume financial responsibility for any fees charged by the cemetery authority for performing a disinterment and for any resulting repair or replacement of merchandise that is damaged during the process.
- Opening and closing for a casket burial (Adult or Infant) to be provided at a cost of \$500.00 Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 8:30 pm; \$700.00 Saturday 8:00 am to 8:30 pm; \$800.00 Sunday 8:00 am to 8:30 pm.
- Opening and closing for a cremains burial shall be provided at a cost of \$250.00 Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 8:30 pm; \$450.00 Saturday 8:00 am to 8:30 pm; \$550.00 Sunday 8:00 am to 8:30 pm.
- All fees shall be paid to the Township Clerk's office, checks payable to Acme Township.

Opening and Closing Burial Spaces:

- No person shall scatter cremains in any Township Cemetery.
No disinterment or interment shall take place December 1 to May 1, except under court order or weather permitting.
The Township Clerk will notify the Township Sexton of all grave openings and closings.
No opening of burial spaces shall take place on Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Day or Sunday except under special consideration.

Interment and Disinterment Regulations:

- No burials shall be allowed in any Township Cemetery for other than human remains.
All cremations or adult or infant burials in a Township Cemetery shall be in reinforced tin, concrete, marble, and/or other metal vaults or equivalent material, wooden vaults are not allowed.
- No burials or entombment shall take place or marker installed in any Township Cemetery until the plot purchase price, the cost of any services required to open or close the plot, the cost of perpetual care or other fees and charges have been paid in full.
No interment of two or more bodies shall be made in one burial space except in the case of parent and infant buried in one casket or two infants buried in one casket or as permitted by the Township Board, two infants in individual vaults. In the case of cremation, two cremation urns in one adult burial space or the combination of one cremation urn and one interment of a human body will be allowed.
 - No above ground cremation urns are allowed in Township cemeteries.
 - No disinterment or interment shall take place from December 1 to May 1, except under court order or weather permitting.

Markers, Memorials and Foundations:

- All foundations shall be installed to Cemetery requirements. The Township may, when it is necessary due to improper installation or poor materials, request the removal, re-level or replacement of a foundation at the cost of the burial space owner.
- All foundations shall be installed within the boundaries of the gravesite and will be flush with the ground surface for ease of grounds maintenance and safety issues.
- Foundations, monuments or markers will not be placed during the winter months.
- Monuments, markers, nameplates and other improvements shall be of stone or other equally durable composition and approved in advance by the Township Sexton or Township Clerk and shall be placed on a solid foundation to remain upright.

No curbing, decorations, embellishments or improvements of any sort shall be placed upon any burial plot, no alteration of the surface of the ground shall be made and to include the planting of trees and shrubs, and no labor shall be done in the Township Cemetery.

- No cleaning, repair or erecting of a monument or marker, without approval from the Township Clerk or Township sexton, is allowed.
- If any monument or other structure, or any inscription thereon, is placed in or upon any burial plot determined to be offensive, by the Acme Township Board, or if it does not comply with these regulations, shall be removed by the owner immediately. The owner fails to remove it upon notice to do so from the Township Clerk, or if the owner cannot be found, the Township may enter upon the premises and remove it at the owner's expense.

Ground Maintenance:

- No grading, leveling, or excavating upon a burial space shall be allowed without the permission of the cemetery sexton or the Township Clerk. Surfaces other than earth or sod are prohibited.
- Mounds which hinder the free use of a lawn mower or other gardening apparatus are prohibited.
- The Township reserves the right to remove or trim any healthy tree, plant or shrub located within the cemetery in the interest of maintaining proper appearance and the use of the cemetery.
- Within the Township Cemetery if trees, shrubs, flowers or weeds of any kind on any plot shall, by means of their roots, branches or otherwise, become detrimental to the adjacent grounds or unsightly, dangerous, diseased, or an obstacle to the public or cemetery personnel, the Township may enter upon the premises and remove the plant or any part thereof.

Flowers and Wreaths:

- Only such flowers and decorations, as allowed by the Cemetery Rules, shall be permitted in any Township Cemetery.
- Urns and other containers for the purpose of flowers shall be made of and constructed of concrete, clay, steel, copper, marble, shall be allowed. Containers made of other materials need approval in advance from the Township Clerk. Acceptable containers and urns must be located in front of the monument or marker, not behind or at the side of the monument or marker.
- Use of a Shepard Hook is allowed but must be positioned to the side of the monument or marker, not in the front or behind the marker or monument.
- Winter flowers and wreaths are permitted within the approved containers, as listed above. Winter wreaths shall be no larger than 24 inches at their widest point and shall be placed beside the marker or monument, not in front or behind. In keeping with a desire to have a natural setting as possible, environmental concerns and effective ground maintenance, the use of natural or dried flowers and all natural winter wreaths is encouraged and appreciated. Floral arrangements not in containers or on a shepherd hook and pose a problem for ground maintenance or source of litter shall be removed.
- In order for the Township to complete fall and spring maintenance, all flowers and decorations placed on burial spaces are to be removed by October 1 of each year and no placement of such items shall be made prior to May 1 of each year. Winter wreaths will be permitted beginning November 1 and must be removed by the following April 1. The Township may remove articles that do not conform to these dates.

- All refuse of any kind including, among others, dried flowers, wreaths, papers, and flower containers, made of material not previously mentioned, must be removed and not left within the cemetery.
- The Township or Township cemetery sexton shall have the right and authority to remove and dispose of any and all growth, emblems, displays or containers therefore that through decay, deterioration, damage or otherwise become unsightly, a source of litter, or a maintenance problem.

Hours:

Township cemeteries shall be open to the general public from "Dawn" to "Dusk" of each day. No person shall be permitted in any Township at any time other than the aforementioned hours.

