

## Carlton County Burial & Disposition Policy

In accordance with MN Statute §261.035, Carlton County will provide for the burial or direct cremation for residents of the county who are otherwise unable to pay the cost of disposition of their remains. The method of disposition will be cremation, unless cremation is contrary to the beliefs of the deceased, or the deceased's spouse or next of kin. If neither the wishes of the decedent or the practices of the decedent's faith tradition are known, nor the county has information about the existence or location of any next of kin, the county may authorize and provide for cremation of the person's remains and interment.

MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Program) will fund a burial if the decedent was a recipient of MFIP at the time of death. No county dollars will be expended if there is eligibility for MFIP burial funding.

Application for a county disposition of remains can be made by a relative, or a friend of the deceased, or a funeral home director and must be conducted in person unless extraordinary circumstances exist such as a public health emergency. Applications must be made before the disposition arrangement agreement is completed unless weekends, holidays, or extraordinary circumstances prevent a timely application.

Carlton County requires verification of all assets owned by the decedent and the decedent's spouse, as of the date of death, in order to make a determination of eligibility. County payment must be accepted as payment in full for items included in the county disposition policy. The county funded disposition is not intended to supplement other monies available for such services. If family and/or friends choose to make substitutions or additions such as upgrading the casket, they will be obligated to pay for the entire cost of the disposition.

Any crowdfunding sources such as benefits, fundraisers or GoFundMe accounts solicited to pay for burial expenses will be considered an available asset to offset the disposition costs. Any crowdfunding benefits raised to help pay for medical expenses of a deceased Medical Assistance recipient will be considered available if the Medical Assistance program covered all medical expenses. Any outstanding medical bills of the deceased that are not covered by Medical Assistance may be paid by a crowdfunding source as an allowable expense, however, any remaining balance in the crowdfunding source will be considered an available asset to help offset disposition costs. Any funds raised via crowdfunding may be subject to recovery to reimburse the county burial paid costs.

Any and all death benefits must be applied for to help pay for the cost of disposition. Examples of these types of death benefits include life insurance, social security, veterans benefits and tribal benefits. The death benefits will be subtracted from the amount the county burial pays. If the benefits are later discovered or received after county burial approval, the death benefits will be paid to the county to reimburse the county funded burial.

If a county funded burial is approved, some or all of the decedent's assets must be paid to the funeral home to offset the expense of the disposition. If the deceased is survived by a spouse or minor child in the home, an allowance may be made. Carlton County burial funds will pay the balance due, up to the county burial limits. If other resources are discovered or become available to the deceased's estate, the county must be notified immediately.

If a resident of another MN county dies in Carlton County, the burial costs must be approved and paid for by the County of Financial Responsibility.

**Allowances:**

\$1,500 (Or actual private pay rate if less than \$1500) Direct Cremation includes the services listed below:

Local removal ( 25 miles one way), care of the remains, transportation to crematory, basic services of staff, authorization, crematory charge, coroner fee and a standard issue container from the crematory.

OR

\$2,400 Interment includes the services listed below:

Local removal (25 miles one way), care of remains, basic services of staff, authorization, embalming, casket and transportation to a local cemetery. Includes a brief graveside service.

**Covered items:**

- Carlton County will allow for a graveside service at the cemetery for traditional burials.

*Carlton County funded dispositions will not allow mortuaries receiving public funding, to provide public visitations or funeral/memorial events outside of the graveside service.*

- Carlton County will pay for the embalming and burial of non-cremated decedents.
- Carlton County will pay for a plot for non-cremated decedents, actual cost up to \$800, if the decedent did not already own a plot.
- Carlton County will pay actual cost up to \$550 to open/close grave.
- Carlton County will pay actual invoice cost of the vault.
- Carlton County will pay \$1 per loaded mile for miles driven outside of the local service area (25 miles) for picking up the decedent.
- Carlton County will pay \$1 per loaded mile for transporting the remains to a cemetery outside the local service area of 25 miles with prior approval of county.

**Items not covered:**

- Carlton County will not pay for accessory services or items such as flowers, honorariums, music, processions, clothes, printed material, food or other such items.
- Carlton County will not pay for cemetery markers/headstone.
- Carlton County will not pay for decorative cremation containers.

- Carlton County will not pay for the burial of cremains.

**If any unauthorized services are provided by the funeral home, the funeral home will forfeit any and all payments authorized by the county.**

**Items the family will be responsible for:**

- Expenses related to interment fees, winter burial costs (including snow removal), perpetual care, markers, additional transportation, tent and set-up fees, weekend or holiday charges, minimal obituary (one 24-line obit without picture for a one-day run), clothing. County funds cannot be used to pay for these items.

**If any unauthorized items/expenses are purchased by the family or friends of the decedent, all county burial funding may be forfeited.**

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 261.04 Carlton County is permitted to file a claim against the estate of the deceased person who received a county funded burial.

Applicant and/or next of kin is required to cooperate with all county collections regarding the decedent's assets. Failure to cooperate in identifying or turning over the decedent's assets may result in legal actions.

Effective 1/1/2018