

Blumfield Township presents the following rules and regulations to provide the best services possible in the Blumfield Township Cemetery and to provide for modern cemetery improvements without imposing unnecessary restrictions.

General Information

All graves are designed so that the deceased faces the east.

The order of interments is up to each family. Most, however, place the wife to the right (as one faces east) of the husband.

General Regulations

The following rules are in accordance with the Blumfield Township ordinance and violation of such rules will be treated as a civil infraction.

Conduct in Cemeteries:

1. Rubbish shall be placed in containers as provided.
2. Wild or domestic flowers, trees and shrubs are placed for the beautification of the cemetery and are not to be picked or mutilated.
3. Liquor or refreshments are not to be consumed in the cemetery.
4. Advertising is not permitted.
5. Firearms will not be permitted in the cemetery except for authorized volleys at burials or memorial services.
6. No driving in excess of 15 miles per hour. No driving off established roads without permission. No use of the roads as public thoroughfares.

Maintenance:

1. GENERAL CARE
 - a. The Township will provide the cutting and trimming of grass as necessary to maintain uniformity in the appearance of the cemetery.
 - b. All grave openings will be sodded or seeded by cemetery personnel at the time of interment or at the appropriate time of the year.

Plantings and Improvements:

1. Planting of flowers, shrubs and trees is not permitted by individuals.
2. Cut or artificial flowers in flush vases may be placed at any time. Other vases of a suitable type (see General Rules) must be placed on markers. Vases improperly placed or of an unsuitable type will be removed by cemetery personnel.
3. Potted plants and wreaths are permitted and are to be placed on the marker. They will be removed when they die or, in the judgment of the cemetery personnel, become unsightly.
4. Winter decorations consisting of evergreen blankets or wreaths may be maintained on graves from Thanksgiving to April 1st. If these decorations, vases, or other property are not removed by April 1st, they will be considered abandoned and may be disposed of by cemetery personnel.

General Regulations

These rules are designed solely to allow the development and maintenance of a dignified and attractive facility while protecting the rights of each lot and grave owner.

1. All plantings and other improvements must be made under the direction and with the approval of Cemetery Personnel. No trees or shrubs may be removed or pruned, except under the direction of Cemetery Personnel.
2. Coping, fences, curbs, hedges, plastic edging, structures of wood or other equally perishable material are prohibited. Those structures or enclosures established on any lot previous to the adoption of these regulations which have, in the judgment of Cemetery Personnel, become unsightly by reason of neglect or age, shall be removed.
3. No elevated mounds may be built over graves and no lot may be filled above the grade established by the Township.
4. Vases and receptacles of a suitable type shall be permitted if properly installed and maintained. A suitable container is a container designed for flowers or plants, which does not rust or shatter, nor is easily breakable. Failure to use a suitable container or properly place them or maintain them will be cause for their removal by Cemetery Personnel.
5. Artificial flowers and decorations are permitted from May 1st – October 1st. They must be in a suitable vase or receptacle with a limit of one container per grave. They must be removed when faded, damaged or soiled so as not to create an impression of neglect. Artificial flowers and decorations may be removed by Cemetery Personnel if improperly placed or when, in their judgment, they become unsightly.
6. Rubbish, refuse, and unused containers must not be left on grave spaces.
7. Plant materials which die, which grow too large, or of a type not permitted by these rules, may be removed by Cemetery Personnel

Monuments And Markers

Materials

1. Only granite or cut stone *but not marble) from recognized monument quarries or standard bronze may be used for markers or monuments. Bronze may be used for markers extending above the grade only if attached to a granite base.
2. The above standard does not prohibit the use of standard metal markers of the type used by Veteran's Organizations or Fire Departments for said graves, when placed adjacent to the marker or monument.
3. In the interests of continuing uniformity, markers for military graves shall be the Federal Government issued types only.

Foundations

1. All monuments and markers, including those installed ahead of burials, must be placed on foundations of solid masonry. Except for flush markers, foundations will be constructed with a four-inch wash around the base of the marker or monument. Construction of all foundations and settings of lot corner posts shall be done only by Cemetery Personnel.
2. All markers will at the west end (head) of the grave space, facing the nearest cemetery road.
3. One raised marker will be allowed per grave space. Additional markers on spaces used for multiple burials must be installed flush with the ground.

Installation

1. Cemetery Personnel and/or Monument Companies must install all markers and monuments in order to secure them in the foundation and,
2. No monument or marker shall be installed until all fees and charges are paid in full.

Funerals and Interments

Funerals

1. All funeral processions within the cemetery shall be directed by Cemetery Personnel.
2. Cemetery Personnel will remove the funeral designs and floral pieces as soon as they become unsightly.

Interments

1. No interments shall be made on Sundays or holidays unless ordered by the Health Department. Holidays are designated as New Years, Good Friday, Memorial Day, July Fourth, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Friday after Thanksgiving, and Christmas.
2. No interment can take place without a Burial Permit.
3. No grave will be opened unless the grave space has been paid for, unless the funeral director assumes the responsibility of payment for such grave space.
4. If the deceased to be interred is not the lot owner or is not a member of the lot owner's immediate family, written consent of the owner, owners, or authorized agent must be filed with the Township before interment will be permitted.
5. All burials shall be in vaults or concrete rough boxes or HIP urn vaults only:
 - a. Inurnments (burial of ashes from cremation).
 - b. Infant burials in casket size 2' and 2'6" (which are casket/vault combinations).
 - c. Cremation vaults over 6" in height shall not be allowed if cremation burial is over an existing adult burial.
6. Vaults, concrete rough boxes, and covers for same are to be installed by firms authorized by the Michigan Concrete Burial Vault Association.
7. Tent and trim for burials are permitted, and are supplied, installed, and removed by burial vault companies.
8. A standard adult grave may be used in the following ways:
 - a. One adult interment.
 - b. One adult interment and one inurnment with urn vaults.
 - c. Two inurnments with urn vaults.
 - d. Up to two infant interments.
9. A casket or alternative container, as a minimum, shall be of strong, thick, particle board with sufficient strength to support a human body and a minimum of four (4) exterior handles for carrying, with a cover not easily dislodged. Cardboard, pressed paper, or similar materials are not acceptable.

Disinterments and Reinterment

1. Disinterments and reinterment shall not be made without permission of Blumfield Township, lot owner, the next of kin of the deceased, licensed Funeral Director, and the proper permits from the Health Department.

2. To seal type vaults may be removed at any time of the year. Disinterment of any other type vault shall only be allowed from October – April (except for official investigation).
3. Graves cannot be opened for inspection except for official investigation.

Prices and Charges

Conditions of Grave Purchase

1. All lots and graves shall be sold subject to these rules and regulations, as they may be amended from time to time, and the deed shall so state.
2. No grave space shall be used for any purpose other than the burial of human remains and the placing of appropriate memorials.
3. Burial areas are exempt from ordinary taxes and cannot be seized on execution.
4. The Township may impose specific charges against lots or grave spaces.
5. No mortgage or other encumbrance shall be given any grave space or lot.
6. No burial area may be purchased or sold or rights transferred for speculative purposes.
7. A grave, whether platted as a single grave or part of a multi-grave lot, may be sold as a single grave or in any combination of graves, subject to eight (8) below.
8. When more than two lots (or the equivalent number of grave spaces) are purchased, unless interments are made on all said lots at the time of purchase, the price of each additional lot shall be one and one-half times the current base price of lots. When a grave space or lot is paid for in full a deed shall be issued to the purchaser by the Township Clerk.
9. When a lot is purchase by more than one person, each person's interest in the lot shall be specifically defined.

Condition of Transfer

1. The transfer of lots or parts of lots to another party shall be recorded in the Township Clerk's office and shall require a fee of \$15.00 unless two (2) below applies.
2. The transfer of lots to an unrelated non-resident will cost the difference between the resident and non-resident current purchase price.
3. No person shall be recognized as owner or part owner unless so recorded in the Township Clerk's office.
4. All transfers of parts of lots less than that conveyed from the Township to the lot owner must be approved by the Township Board.
5. Upon the death of the owner of the last to die of joint or multiple owners of a grave space, title to said grave space shall be governed by the disposition as set forth in the last will and testament, in the case of a testate estate, or by the laws of descent and distribution of the State of Michigan in the case of an intestate estate. It shall be the responsibility of anyone claiming ownership of a grave space under these provisions or as a result of any transfer of ownership to provide the Township with such proof, as shall be satisfactory to the Township, of said person's legal ownership of said grave space.