



Hanford Cemetery District
10500 S. 10th Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230
Tel # (559) 584-3937
Fax # (559) 584-9494

Cemetery Rules & Regulations

Board of Trustees

Robert Lohse* Ron Fagundes* Deborah Wilson* Loretta Toledo*

Cemetery Management

Office Manager **Margaret Lohry**

Grounds Manager **Kasey Correia**

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Established 1882

REVISED November 8, 2023

Burial Rights Regulations

The Burial rights for a cemetery plot for any of our cemeteries may be purchased through an authorized person located in the District Office, on the Hanford Cemetery grounds. Terms of sales, year, two-year, and three-year contracts are available. Upon payment in full of your burial right, a Certificate of Ownership will be issued and signed by the cemetery management.

Administration Fee

All interments must have a burial permit from any California-licensed funeral home or the County Health Department where the place of death occurred. If the place of death is out of state, the burial permit has to be issued by a California-licensed funeral home at the family's expense.

No interment may be made, or any other services rendered, until payment in full has been made at least two business days in advance. All interments require the signature of a family member or a person who is authorized to sign and is responsible for the deceased's burial. An open casket is not allowed before, during, or after the service. **Viewing the lowering of the casket or cremains is restricted to the public at any time. Lowering will not take place until all funeral attendees have left.**

The opening and closing of a grave, planting of any trees, plants, or flowers, or the replacement of any markers will be done by cemetery employees. The only exception is marker placement on the existing cement strips or upright markers, these shall be installed by a professional.

A burial receptacle (Liner or Vault) is required and will be used for every interment in this district's cemeteries. All remains and/or cremains of the deceased will be brought to the cemetery in a closed casket, urn, or other approved container.

A single grave will have no more than one burial and one cremation. A dual grave will have no more than two burials and one cremation. If a grave has no burials, or a double-depth grave with the burial done first, up to 4 cremations will be allowed in a grave. **(Note: There is only one marker/headstone allowed per grave).**

Final committal services will not begin before 8:00 a.m. or end later than 2:00 p.m. in the summer and 3:00 p.m. in the winter. Kings River and Lakeside cemeteries must not begin before 9:00 a.m. and be done before 1:00 p.m. in the summer and 2:00 p.m. in the winter.

Saturday Service

Saturday services are available to the public, (limited time) service must be done before 11:00 a.m., with a surcharge and refundable deposit set by the Board of Trustees. Any service not complete and all attendees are out by 11:00 a.m. will not receive their deposit back.

Non-Residency

For any services where the deceased is not a resident of Hanford nor do they own property in Hanford, a surcharge set by the Board of Trustees will be added as per California Health and Safety Code 9068b.

Endowment Care

Cemeteries maintained by the Hanford Cemetery District are endowment care cemeteries. A surcharge set by the Board of Trustees will be added for the purpose of maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery grounds. Any increases in this fee from the original purchase will be charged at the time of interment.

Administration Fee

The Hanford Cemetery District charges an administration fee for external costs that occur for filing and handling a burial. Any increases in this fee from the original purchase will be charged at the time of interment.

This guide is to maintain the beauty and safety of cemetery grounds, and we respectfully insist that you observe these regulations.

Plants, Shrubs, Benches, Flag Poles

1. Hanford Cemetery District is the approving authority in the landscape improvements of the cemetery grounds.
2. No individual or organization will be permitted to do any planting of flowers, shrubs, trees, or grass on the cemetery grounds.
3. No individual or organization will be permitted to trim around any monuments.
4. No individual or organization will be permitted to install any benches (other than headstone benches), flag poles, signs, or other items on the cemetery grounds.
5. If an individual or organization wishes to make a monetary contribution toward the landscaping, that contribution will be accepted and used at the proper time for planting as determined by the Cemetery District.
6. This policy is in effect as of November 9, 1999. All landscape materials placed on cemetery grounds prior to this date will remain in place until plants and shrubs die or have to be removed.

The public that has flowers or plants growing at the headstones of their loved ones before September 27, 2001, may continue to do so. They will abide by the following conditions.

1. These planted areas will not exceed 15” wide on a gravesite of the headstone base. Areas in between or behind headstone bases will not be planted unless the grave plots are owned by the person doing the planting.
2. The areas will be maintained and kept well-groomed at all times. The flowers will be fresh, free of weeds, and kept irrigated. The cemetery personnel will not be responsible for these plants. Should the plants appear neglected, they will be pulled out and the grower will no longer be allowed to plant anymore. At this point Policy # 4-99 will be in effect.

NOTE: Weed control herbicides (Roundup) will not be used by the public to control weeds around the headstones.

Flower & Grave Decorations

The following guidelines are set in place for the use of flowers and decorations on all gravesites, niches/columbaria, and any/all grounds of all cemeteries of the Hanford Cemetery District hereinafter referred to as The District. The following policies will be put in place to maintain the safety of all visitors and staff, as well as the beautification, cleanliness, and upkeep of cemetery grounds. We ask that you please follow the rules set forth below.

Grave Decorations

1. Decorations such as temporary markers, pictures, pinwheels, figurines, toys, garlands, and solar lights are allowed in the vases provided with a grave. If a grave or niche does not have a vase, one may be placed. Please contact the office for more information.
2. All flowers and decorations must be placed in the in-ground vases, core holes in the base of a marker, or vases attached to the base by a monument company. All flowers, decorations, and inserts must be secured in the vase. Any items blown out or dislodged from their vases will be discarded.
3. Iron vase inserts allowing additional room for flowers and decorations may be purchased. Please contact the office for a list of approved vendors. 30-inch, 20-inch, and 15-inch inserts are available. Full-size graves may have up to 30-inch inserts. Baby graves may have up to 20-inch inserts, and in-ground, cremation graves may have 15-inch inserts.
4. Decorations may be attached to a headstone or marker if secured and will not become detached or separated.
5. Flowers, decorations, and any other items may not be pressed into the grass. This is to allow safe, routine maintenance, weed eating, and mowing of the area.
6. Permanent vases for flowers must be set in the concrete, where permitted, with the monument, and will be set by cemetery personnel only. If a vase is missing, please contact staff for a replacement.

Niche/Columbaria Decorations

1. In order to prevent obscuring other families' niche plates, please limit flowers in niche vases to a bud.
2. Niches waiting for a plate to be engraved, and a vase to be attached, may place a wreath or similar decoration as long as it is secured using tape that will not cause damage to the temporary plate. These will not be allowed after a plate has been engraved, and a vase has been attached.
3. Flowers and decorations may not be pressed in between niche plates or set on top of niches. This is to prevent damage to the niches, as well as items falling off the top.

All Decorations

1. The District is not liable for floral arrangements during or after funeral services.
2. Flower arrangements from funerals will be left out for five to ten days.
3. The District staff understands the role that personal items left on gravestones/markers play in the grieving and remembrance process for the family. Every reasonable effort will be made to care for flowers that are properly placed, but neither The District nor its employees will be responsible for anything that may be **broken, lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged, or vandalized** during the district's course of work.
4. The following objects are prohibited in all Hanford Cemetery District grounds and niche areas **and will be discarded immediately**:
 - a. Candles of all types. Candles destroy cement settings or could become a fire hazard.
 - b. Breakable materials include but are not limited to glass and ceramic. Breakable materials become a hazard to people, animals, and equipment.
 - c. No sand, gravel, rocks, cement, casting plaster, or wax.
 - d. Food and beverages.
 - e. Mylar balloons are not allowed. As per the California Penal Code 653.1 (a).
5. No wind chimes or decorations of any kind may be placed in the Cemetery Districts' trees, bushes, and/or on cement strips.

Flowers & Decorations Clean-Up

1. The District has the authority to remove all flowers and decorations when deemed necessary. Reasons for removing flowers and decorations include but are not limited to; wilting, faded, torn, damaged, unsightly, or cluttered.
2. Two major cleanups of flowers and decorations will be conducted each year.
 - a. **1st Monday in February** ...Removal of all flowers and decorations.
 - b. **1st Monday in August** ...Removal of all flowers and decorations.
3. Flowers and decorations will be discarded when the following occurs;
 - a. Flowers or decorations have been blown out or dislodged from their vases.
 - b. Flowers or decorations prohibit the maintenance of the cemetery grounds.
 - c. Flowers or decorations present safety concerns for staff or visitors.
 - d. Flowers or decorations obscure or harm other families' headstones, plots, or niche plates.
 - e. The total height of the headstone, including the base, and flowers or decorations exceeds a height of 42 inches.
 - f. Flowers or decorations do not follow the rules set out in this guide.

Headstones & Grave Markers

The Board of Trustees of the Hanford Cemetery District requires Headstones/Markers/Benches to meet specified requirements in order to maintain maximum efficiency in the upkeep of the graves.

1. All **headstones** or **markers** shall be made of either granite, marble, or bronze.
2. All **benches** shall be constructed of granite or marble.
3. All **headstones** or **markers** shall be cast in or set upon a cement or concrete foundation constructed by the Cemetery District.
4. There shall be only one **headstone** or **marker** per grave.
 - a. Side-by-side graves with a **marker** over both, may only have one **marker**.
5. No **base** or **marker** shall be placed over more than 2 graves.
6. Marble or granite vases may be attached to the base of the headstone by a monument company.
7. All **headstone/marker/bench** designs must receive prior approval from the Hanford Cemetery District Grounds Manager. The Manager must be notified at least 24 hours before setting. Any **headstone/marker/bench** set without design approval will be removed at the vendor's expense.
8. All **headstones/bases/markers** must be set during Cemetery work hours.
9. All **headstones/bases/markers** are the responsibility of the owner. Any damage done to the concrete or **headstone/marker/bench** may be repaired at the expense of the owner.
10. Single and dual upright **markers** shall be no higher than 42 inches in total.
 - a. Single and dual upright **bases** shall be no longer than 42 inches saw cut, or 36 inches rough break and no wider than 12 inches.
11. Single and dual flat **markers** shall be no longer than 36 inches and no wider than 12 inches.
12. Side-by-side upright **markers** shall be no higher than 42 inches in total and no longer than 54 inches.
 - a. Side-by-side upright **bases** shall be no longer than 72 inches saw cut or 66 inches rough break and no wider than 12 inches.
13. Side-by-side flat **markers** shall be no longer than 72 inches and no wider than 12 inches.
14. All **bases** and **markers** in lots 1-20, graves 5-8 at Kings River Cemetery shall be no longer than 36 inches and no wider than 12 inches.
15. Cremation Section **markers** shall be 24 inches long by 12 inches wide. The front shall be 4 inches high and the back shall be 6 inches high.
16. **Benches** shall be no longer than 36 inches, 12 to 14 inches wide, 19 inches tall, and 26 inches between the inside of the legs.
17. Baby Land **markers** must meet the following sizes:
 - a. Flat – 12” long by 10” wide by 3” high.
 - b. Pillow – 12” long by 10” wide by 8” high.
 - c. Angel's Rest/Hanford East – 12” long by 10” wide by 18” high.
 - d. Fetal Areas (Flat) – 12” long by 10” wide by 3” high.
 - e. Calvary NWUP – 12” long by 10” wide by 24” high.
 - f. Calvary SOUP – 20” long by 10” wide by 20” high.

The trustees reserve the right to change or amend these rules at any time.