

Policy

Burial / Cremation Program

2022 Update

Administered by Oklahoma County Social Services
a department of the Board of Oklahoma County Commissioners
5905 North Classen Court, Suite 302, Oklahoma City, OK 73118 (405) 713-1893

Purpose of Program:

The purpose of the Burial / Cremation Program is to provide burial or cremation services for deceased indigent persons who die in Oklahoma County and who have no family or friends who are willing or able to pay for services (as per Oklahoma Statutes Title 56 Section 54).

General Program Description:

Oklahoma County works cooperatively with funeral homes, cemeteries, and crematoriums located in Oklahoma County, the Office of the Medical Examiner, the Veterans Administration, and other organizations in the operation of this program. Oklahoma County pays a set fee for services and no additional payment can be received.

Access to Services and Eligibility Information:

- Assistance from the Burial / Cremation Program can be accessed in two ways:
 - At the request of a funeral home located in Oklahoma County; or
 - At the request of the Medical Examiner (in cases of unclaimed bodies).
- Cases may be redirected if appropriate through alternative programs such as the Veteran's Administration (VA) or Bureau of Indian Affairs. If it is learned that a county service has been provided for an unclaimed eligible veteran, the county will work with the VA in an effort to facilitate burial of ashes in a national cemetery.
- It is the policy of Oklahoma County that bodies of deceased indigent persons receive cremation services. Oklahoma County may, at its discretion, consider requests for exceptions to this policy. Exceptions will be approved only under extenuating circumstances as determined by Oklahoma County. Extenuating circumstances include the following:
 - A person who owned a burial plot in his/her name in Oklahoma County prior to death may be buried in that plot.
 - Efforts will be made to redirect eligible veterans to the VA; however, in the event of a county service, the veteran may be buried in a plot at a national cemetery.
 - Children (through sixteen years of age) may receive burial services rather than cremation services at the written request of the parent or legal guardian.
 - Those persons known to have had verifiable religious objections to cremation may receive burial services.
- Funeral homes, crematoriums, and cemeteries used in this program must be located in Oklahoma County. Exception is made for a national cemetery for eligible veterans.
- Services are available only to persons whose death occurred in Oklahoma County.

- Services cannot be pre-arranged or pre-approved.
- The county's application form must be completed and signed by the funeral director.
- If next of kin is available, the next of kin's signature must be obtained on the county's form requesting services at Public Expense. In the absence of next of kin, signature will be obtained from any other person claiming the body.
- If referring entity has located no next of kin or other party to authorize services, and no other person or entity is found to be available, authorization will be provided by a representative of Oklahoma County Social Services.
- No other funds can be paid in addition to payment received by Oklahoma County, and Oklahoma County cannot provide supplemental or partial payment.

Fee / Payment Structure:

Full amount of payment for service is made to the funeral home. Payment to subcontractors for cremation or cemetery services is the responsibility of the funeral home.

Cremation:

Amount paid for adult cremation: **\$315.00**
(\$175 to funeral home, \$140 to crematorium)

Amount paid for child cremation (age 12 and under): **\$250.00**
(\$110 to funeral home, \$140 to crematorium)

Payment covers:

- Preparation of body
- Transportation
- Cremation
- Cremation casket
- Final disposition
- Other related essentials

Burial:

Amount paid for adult burial: **\$700.00**
(\$450 to funeral home, \$250 to cemetery)

In the event that a veteran is transported by a funeral home for burial at a national cemetery, the payment will remain the same; however, there will be no payment required from the funeral home to the cemetery.

Amount paid for child burial (age 12 and under): **\$550.00**
(\$300 to funeral home, \$250 to cemetery)

- Additional \$100.00 allowance if oversized casket is required

Payment covers:

- Preparation of body
- Transportation
- Casket
- Opening and closing of the grave
- Other related essentials

Body Bag Allowance: An additional payment of \$85.00 is allowable in cases requiring the use of a body bag due to severe decomposition or infectious disease.

Policy

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Approval

2009

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General Program Description:

Oklahoma County works cooperatively with funeral homes, cemeteries, and crematoriums located in Oklahoma County, the Office of the Medical Examiner, the Fort Sill National Cemetery, and the Fort Gibson National Cemetery in the operation of this program. Oklahoma County pays a set fee for services that cannot be supplemented.

Access to Services and Eligibility Information:

- Assistance from the Burial / Cremation Program can be accessed in only two ways:
 - At the request of a funeral home located in Oklahoma County; or
 - At the request of the Medical Examiner (in cases of unclaimed bodies).
- It is the policy of Oklahoma County that bodies of deceased indigent persons receive cremation services. Oklahoma County may, at its discretion, consider requests for exceptions to this policy. Exceptions will be approved only under extenuating circumstances as determined by Oklahoma County. Extenuating circumstances include the following:
 - A person who owned a burial plot in his/her name in Oklahoma County prior to death may receive burial services and/or be buried in that plot.
 - An eligible veteran may receive burial services and/or be buried in a plot in the Fort Sill National Cemetery or the Fort Gibson National Cemetery.
 - Children (through sixteen years of age) may receive burial services rather than cremation services at the written request of the parent or legal guardian.
 - Those persons known to have had verifiable religious objections to cremation may receive burial services.

Funeral homes, crematoriums, and cemeteries used in this program must be located in Oklahoma County. Exception is made for the Fort Sill National Cemetery or the Fort Gibson National Cemetery for eligible veterans.

Services are available only to persons whose death occurred in Oklahoma County.

Services cannot be pre-arranged or pre-approved.

The county's application form must be completed and signed by the funeral director.

If next of kin is available, the next of kin's signature must be obtained on the county's form requesting services at Public Expense.

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Access to Services / Eligibility Information (continued):

Eligibility for pre-term infants requires the issuance of a death certificate.

No other funds can be available for this purpose. (Oklahoma County cannot provide supplemental assistance.)

Fee / Payment Structure:

Full amount of payment for service is made to the funeral home. Payment to subcontractors for cremation or cemetery services is the responsibility of the funeral home.

Cremation:

Amount paid for adult cremation: \$315.00
(\$175 to funeral home, \$140 to crematorium)

Amount paid for child cremation (age 12 and under): \$250.00
(\$110 to funeral home, \$140 to crematorium)

Payment covers:

- Preparation of body
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- Final disposition
- Other related essentials

Burial:

Amount paid for adult burial: \$700.00
(\$450 to funeral home, \$250 to cemetery)

Amount paid for child burial (age 12 and under): \$550.00
(\$300 to funeral home, \$250 to cemetery)

- Additional \$100.00 allowance if oversized casket is required
- There will be no change in fees for burials at the Fort Sill National Cemetery and the Fort Gibson National Cemetery. However, in these cases, no payment has to be made from the funeral home to the cemetery.

Payment covers:

- Preparation of body
- Transportation
- Casket
- Opening and closing of the grave
- Other related essentials

Body Bag Allowance: An additional payment of \$85.00 is allowable in cases requiring the use of a body bag due to severe decomposition or infectious disease.