

Rules & Regulations Governing Cemeteries

(Adopted September 15, 1969/ Revised June 9, 2005)

The Chikaming Township Board of Health hereby sets forth the following rules and regulations applicable to the Chikaming Township Cemeteries, in order to provide for appropriate interment of the dead; proper administration of the burial grounds, and to maintain dignity.

Any person who violates any of these regulations or is found guilty of conduct unbecoming to the environment of these grounds will be prosecuted under appropriate Michigan statutes.

1. Purchase of Graves: Any resident or taxpayer of Chikaming Township, regardless of nationality, creed, faith, race or color may purchase graves for cash at the prescribed rates set forth by the Township Board. Any person, regardless of nationality, creed, faith, race or color having residence outside of Chikaming Township, and not having property assessed for taxes in Chikaming, may purchase grave space by paying cash, at the prescribed rates set forth by the Board. Any person having property assessed for taxes in Chikaming Township and/or a resident thereof is prohibited from buying a grave space in these cemeteries with the purpose of transferring title and/or use.
2. Defining the Right of Ownership: When a grave has been purchased within the enclosure of the cemetery grounds it becomes for all time the property of the purchaser, subject to these rules and regulations. It cannot be taken for debt, sold for secular purposes, and the ground cannot be encroached upon for any other than cemetery purposes.
3. Lot Ownership: A deed shall be issued to each purchaser on full payment of purchase price of said grave or graves. In Chikaming Township cemeteries burial space will be sold as single graves.
4. Purchasing or Holding Burial Space Jointly: Purchasing or holding burial space jointly is not recommended except by husband and wife. When there are joint owners, either by purchase, devise or descent, the Board will not undertake to recommend or enforce any agreements or rights between them, but will accept in the order of receipt from any owner, orders for interment therein.
5. Interment in Burial Space For Remuneration: No owner shall be permitted to demand or receive any compensation for use of a burial space owned by him.
6. Transfer of Property: No transfer or assignment of graves, or interest therein, shall be allowed, except by consent of the Board. In the event that any owner wishes to dispose of unused grave space, the Board will consider the purchase of said graves for re-sale at not to exceed 75% of the prevailing resident-taxpayer rate.
7. Payment for Burial: The charge for opening and closing a grave shall be paid to the sexton at the time of making applications for interment, at rates established by the Board.
8. Burials Per Plot: The Board allows three burials per plot in the following combinations: one vault and two cremations; one vault, one infant and one cremation or three cremations.
9. Liability of Board for Error: The Board shall not be held responsible for any mistake occurring from the want of precise and proper instructions as to the particular space where a burial is desired.
10. Removal of Remains: Removal of an interred body or cremated remains is forbidden, except by written permission of the Township Board of Health, through its officers. The Township, the Board of Health or its employees shall not be liable in any way in connection with a disinterment.
11. Gravestones and Monuments: Memorials stones must be mounted on a permanent foundation base or footing. This shall be constructed of cement consisting of a 5-1- mixture, no less than 18 inches deep. All foundation work shall be done by the sexton or under his direction, at an established fee. Memorial size is limited to 30 inches long for a single plot and 54 inches long for a double or larger plot and only one monument per plot.
12. Supervision of Improvements: All improvements or alterations of individual property in the cemetery shall be under the direction of the owner, subject to the consent, satisfaction and approval of the Board. Should they be made without its consent, the Board shall have the right to remove, alter or change such improvements or alterations at the expense of the owner, or if, in its judgment, the property becomes unsightly. All plantings of flowers shall be limited to an area one (1) foot around the memorial marker or the potential site thereof. No corner lot or full grave plantings will be allowed. Trees and shrubs shall be planted only by permission of the Sexton. Concrete or stone curbing, crushed stone or gravel will not be allowed on the burial space. The owners of grave spaces are prohibited from raising or lowering the surface of the same, except by special permission of the Board. The sexton shall fill low spots which may be due to settling of the ground, and see that it is properly seeded.
13. Removal of Floral Designs: The Board shall have the authority to remove all floral designs, flowers, weeds, trees, shrubs, or herbage of any kind from the cemetery, as soon as in the judgment of the sexton they become unsightly, dangerous, detrimental or diseased, or when they do not conform to the standards maintained. The Board shall not be liable for floral pieces, baskets, or frames in which or to which floral pieces are attached. To eliminate damage to the mowing equipment, the use of solid containers for floral decorations is prohibited.
14. Advertisements: No signs, notices or advertisements of any kind shall be allowed in the cemetery unless placed by the Board.

Chikaming Township
Board of Health