

INDIGENTS BURIAL POLICY

County payment for burials of indigents requires approval from the Wright County Human Services Agency.

- a) Prior payment approval must be obtained by a family member or Funeral Home Director before making funeral arrangements. During normal office hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.), call Sheri Lumley, at 763-684-4524.
- b) If prior approval must be obtained outside of the normal office hours, call Sheri Lumley, Collections Services Supervisor, at 763-228-3677.
- c) If approval is not obtained prior to arranging a County burial, the family or Funeral Home must contact the Wright County Human Services Agency on the next business day. A payment determination will be made based on an evaluation of available resources of the deceased and/or any legally responsible family members. Wright County is not responsible for payment if procedure is not followed.
- d) If the deceased had been a Medical Assistance recipient at the time of death, the payment determination will be made, based on a completed County Burial application and Medical Assistance file information. Additional information may be requested before determination may be made.
- e) If the deceased had not been receiving Medical Assistance at the time of death, the Agency requires that a representative complete a County Burial application (on County internet site) prior to making a payment determination.
- f) Upon approval of a County-paid burial, the Funeral Home must submit a detailed/itemized claim for payment to the Wright County Human Services Agency within thirty (30) days.
- g) A requesting party will be informed by the County representative, if the County approves the burial; the County will seek reimbursement through all available resources and/or petitioning probate.
- h) If a family member or Rep Payee has access to a liquid account such as a checking or savings account, but the funds are not enough to pay for a burial, the family must pay the funds up to the amount of the County Burial allowance to the Funeral Home. The Funeral Home will bill the County for the difference between what the family has paid the Funeral Home and the cost of the burial, not to exceed the maximum allowance as determined by policy. The County may allow a surviving spouse to retain a portion of the liquid assets based upon demonstrated need.
- i) Unless cremation is opposed by decedent's next of kin, or known not to be in accordance with the decedent's wishes or beliefs, the County will authorize payment of a cremation and not a burial on the client's behalf.
- j) Cash advance items such as flowers, memory book, memorial cards, grave marker, obituary notices, motor escort, clergy fees, death certificates, and cemetery charges, except for opening and closing fees, shall be covered by the decedent's family.

A. ADULT BURIAL PAYMENT ALLOWANCES

1. \$1700 per adult burial including: embalming, preparation, casket, vault, services.
2. Opening/Closing of grave. Actual cost up to \$500.
3. Transportation costs will be reimbursed \$1.00 per mile, up to a maximum of \$150.00. *Special consideration for out-of-state travel up to a maximum of \$400.00.
4. If a grave site is needed, the County will pay the actual cost up to a maximum of \$400.

B. CHILD BURIAL

Child burials from Stillborn to 12 years will be paid up to 75% of the adult burial rate.

C. CREMATION

1. Cremation with professional services - \$1400.00.
2. Cremation with professional and memorial services - \$1600.00.

APPEAL PROCEDURES

A family may appeal to the Agency if they feel the denial of burial/cremation expenses should be overturned, due to special and unusual circumstances.

Procedures are as follows:

1. The family member(s) who appeals must do so in writing, stating the reasons why they feel the denial should be overturned and the request for a review hearing.
2. Appeals must be filed within thirty (30) days of the initial application for services. The appeal shall be directed to the Financial Services Manager.

3. The Financial Services Manager will notify the family member with the date and time of the review hearing. The family member(s) has the option of attending the review hearing. A panel of three (3) Wright County Human Services supervisors will review the request and make a recommendation based on the facts presented.
4. If the family member(s) do not agree with the review hearing recommendations, the family may appeal to the Wright County Human Services Board. They may present their appeal for final determination.