

**TOWN OF MERCER
IRON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Amendment 2007-05 (Amended Ordinance 2002-4)

MERCER CEMETERY POLICIES

2. General Rules

- 2.1. Vehicles are prohibited between sunset and sunrise. Speed limit is 10 mph and vehicles must remain on roadways.
- 2.2. Children under age fourteen are not permitted on cemetery grounds or buildings unless supervised by an adult.
- 2.3. At-large or free-running domestic animals are prohibited.
- 2.4. Washing vehicles is prohibited on cemetery grounds.
- 2.5. Alcoholic beverages are not to be carried or consumed on cemetery grounds.
- 2.6. Only authorized funeral volleys or firearm discharge is permitted. Authorization may be obtained at town offices.
- 2.7. **All** trees and shrubbery are the property of the town and shall removed **at the discretion of the town board**. Removal will be done only by authorized personnel.
- 2.8. Snowmobiles or ATVs are prohibited on grounds and dumping of any kind is not allowed.
- 2.9 The erection of commercial signs on cemetery property or adjoining road easement is prohibited.

3. Lot Owners

- 3.1. Lot costs are contingent upon current price schedule. All sales of cemetery lots shall take place at the town offices, by authorized personnel. Payment in full for plot must be made before any burial takes place.
- 3.2. At time of purchase, a deed with lot description will be issued to owner as proof of sale. A copy of deed and amount paid will be kept on file in town office.
- 3.3. Persons whose names are not recorded will not be recognized as owners of a lot or gravesite. Any transfer of lots or portion of lots must be recorded at town office.
- 3.4. No lot shall be used for any purpose other than burial of human remains.
- 3.5. The town will take every precaution to protect all cemetery property from loss or damage but disclaims all responsibility for any loss or damage resulting from causes beyond its reasonable control.

4. Funerals and Interments

- 4.1. The cemetery will be open for interment as weather conditions allow.
- 4.2. Request for burial requires an advance notice to a town official of at least sixteen (16) working hours or two (2) business days.
- 4.3. **NO INTERMENTS SHALL TAKE PLACE WITHOUT A BURIAL PERMIT**, presented at the cemetery by the funeral director or designate and subsequently recorded at town office. Requisition from funeral directors for the opening of graves will be considered synonymous to that of the lot owner.
- 4.4. All body caskets must be placed in a concrete grave box or vault.
- 4.5. Funeral directors making burial arrangements shall be responsible for all interment charges.
- 4.6. No interment of two or more bodies shall be made in one grave except those of: a parent and child under one year of age or two children of the same parents and under one year of age.
- 4.7. No more than **two (2)** containers of cremated remains may be buried in one grave that contains an interred body. Two containers of remains may be buried in advance of a subsequent body interment.
- 4.8 **Three (3)** containers of cremated remains may be buried in a grave that does not contain a

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body.

4.9. **UNAUTHORIZED BURIAL OF ASHES IS PROHIBITED.** All burials must be made by authorized personnel and recorded in the town office.

4.10. Upon entering the cemetery, all funeral processions shall be under the direction of authorized personnel.

4.11. Lot owners shall not allow interments in their lots in return for compensation of any kind.

5. Monuments and Memorials

5.1. PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND LOCATIONS OF MARKERS OR MEMORIALS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY TOWN CLERK.

5.2. Permission from the **clerk's office** must be granted to anyone erecting or repairing memorials.

5.3 Only one marker that extends above ground surface may be placed on a grave. Multiples buried in one grave **MAY HAVE ONE FLUSH MARKER FOR EACH INTERMENT.** All foot markers must be installed flush with the ground.

5.4. Monuments shall be erected as feasibly near the center of the head-end of the lot. Only one monument per lot is allowed and placed under direction of authorized personnel.

5.5. Unless authorized, placement of monuments, markers or foundations, will not be allowed on Saturdays, Sundays, or Holidays.

5.6. Monuments and markers shall be constructed of standard bronze, granite, marble, non-artificial or non-perishable material. Sandstone, limestone, or soapstone bases are not allowed.

5.7. A single grave marker for each grave may take the place of a family monument.

6. Care of lots

6.1. Grave decoration is permitted between May 1st and October 15th, after which all decorations must be removed from premises.

6.2 Floral arrangements must be in a securely anchored container.

6.3. Flower containers must be weatherproof and weigh less than 35 pounds. Use or placement of glass jars or cans for flowers is not permitted.

6.4. THE PLANTING OF SHRUBS, TREES AND OTHER VEGETATION IS PROHIBITED. ALL UNAUTHORIZED PLANTING WILL BE REMOVED BY CEMETERY EMPLOYEES.

6.5. Use or placement of fencing, decorative rock, wood chips or other decorations is prohibited.

6.6. The town shall not be responsible for flowers, decorations or markers damaged by the elements, vandals, thieves, or other causes beyond its control.

7. Disinterments

7.1. Once properly interred, disinterment of a body, shall not be made without a properly executed disinterment permit, obtained at the town office. Any grave which must be opened for inspection for any official investigation shall require a signed order by a court of competent jurisdiction.

7.2. The cemetery supervisor and employees are the only persons who will be permitted to open graves with the following exceptions:

- a) when a certified copy of a satisfactory court order for disinterment is filed with the town clerk;
- b) when a medical examiner directs the disinterment for the purpose of holding an inquest. A properly signed authorization to release the body to the ME or a lawful agent, must be filed with the town. In such cases, disinterment must be made by the medical examiner or agents.

Cemetery employees are not permitted to assist.

8. Rules Enforcement

The town shall at all times retain supervision and control of all cemetery grounds and buildings, conduct of funerals, traffic, employees, plot owners, visitors and all persons on cemetery grounds. Persons convicted of any violation of rules or provisions adopted by the Mercer Town Board shall be fined not more than five hundred (\$500) dollars and all legal costs or by imprisonment of not more than ninety (90) days or both.