

FILLMORE COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

902 HOUSTON ST NW SUITE #1

PRESTON, MN 55965

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County Burial Fact Sheet

When a person dies without the means to provide for his/her burial, and the next of kin have no ability to pay for the burial, an indigent burial may be provided by the County.

Eligibility and approval for County burial MUST be preauthorized

An application for County Burial must be completed.

Applications are available through the Funeral Home, the County Public Assistance Office (507 765 2175) or on the Fillmore County Website (<http://www.co.fillmore.mn.us/>).

All resources of the Deceased will be reviewed and applied toward the cost of a county burial including resources owned jointly or available through inheritance by a responsible relative.

No enhancements

If the County assumes financial responsibility for final disposition, there cannot be any enhancements. If family and/or friends chose to enhance or make substitutions, such as casket of their choice, they will be obligated to pay for the entire cost.

The County provides for Direct Cremation; or Immediate Burial if cremation is contrary to the beliefs or expressed wishes of the deceased.

The County will not pay for accessory services such as flowers, honorariums, music, procession, clothes, printed material, food or other such items.

The County does not pay for cemetery markers/headstone.

The County does not pay for decorative cremation containers.

Fillmore County Community Services Department
Policy Statement

TITLE: County Burial Policy

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to establish burial costs paid by the County under the Minnesota Family Investment Program and Minnesota Poor Relief Law.

REFERENCE: Minnesota Statutes 261.035; Minnesota Statutes 149A.80; and Minnesota Statutes 256.935 (Minnesota Family Investment Program)

PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE: Financial Worker in conjunction with Social Services Manager

EFFECTIVE: July 1st, 2009. Reviewed and approved by Board on July 7th, 2015.

POLICY:

Under Minnesota Statutes, the County is required to provide for the final disposition of indigent persons. Policies pertaining to burials are at the discretion of the County Board to the extent that they do not conflict with special provisions in state law or regulations for MFIP burials. A burial is considered a MFIP burial if the deceased was a recipient of MFIP at the time of death. Otherwise, the burial is a County Poor Relief burial.

If the County assumes financial responsibility for the final disposition, the burial cannot exceed the county limits and there cannot be any enhancements.

The method of disposition will be direct cremation or immediate burial if cremation is contrary to the beliefs of expressed wishes of the deceased, or those of the deceased's spouse or next of kin.

Resources of the deceased and responsible relatives will be considered in determining eligibility for county burial. Assets available and/or third party reimbursement will be applied to the county burial costs.

Authorization and approval of a County burial must be received prior to making funeral plans. The family/friends funeral home will be expected to work closely with the County staff to ensure fair but cost-effective arrangements.

PROCEDURES:

1. Application for a County Burial will be available at the Fillmore County Social Services office, through Funeral Directors or on the Fillmore County website (<http://www.co.fillmore.mn.us/>).

An application for Fillmore County Burial (attached) must be completed and returned to the County prior to finalizing funeral/burial arrangements. If the deceased is a current public assistance recipient, eligibility may be determined using current case information, but responsible relatives/next of kin may be required to complete an application.

Assets available and/or third-party reimbursement will be applied to county burial costs.

2. County payment must be accepted as payment in full for items included in the county burial policy.

If family and/or friends choose to enhance the funeral or make substitutions, such as casket or their choice, they will be obligated to pay for the entire cost of the funeral/burial.

3. Eligibility is limited to available resources less than the cost of a county burial.
All resources available to the decedent or responsible spouse/parents of a minor child will be reviewed and considered in determining eligibility for county burial, including but not limited to bank accounts, life insurance benefits, vehicles, real estate, and any death benefits to which the deceased and/or responsible relative are entitled.
Certain assets (real estate, vehicle) may be excluded if there's a surviving spouse and/or minor children. Assets available and/or third-party reimbursement will be applied to the county burial costs.

ALLOWANCES:

- 1.) Direct Cremation: Maximum \$1,600.00
This includes local removal, care of remains, transportation to the crematory, basic services of staff, authorization, crematory charge, and a non-decorative remains container, including a short time of remembrance/memorial.
The County will not pay for accessory services or items such as but not limited to flowers, honorariums, music, processions, clothes, printed material, food, or other related items.
- 2.) Immediate Burial: Maximum \$1,900.00
This includes local removal, care of remains, basic services of staff, authorizations, casket and coach to local cemetery. Excludes ceremony, visitation, and cemetery charges but includes a short time of remembrance/memorial.
- 3.) Other burial costs the County will cover as needed and at most reasonable price:
- a. *Vault/grave box/Urn- at invoice cost*
 - b. *Grave opening and closing- at opening/closing cost.*
 - c. *A cemetery lot purchased by the County for immediate burials under this policy*
County does not pay for cemetery markers/headstones
County does not pay for decorative cremation containers.
Out of county transportation of the body (for burial in another cemetery plot)
only if it would be less expensive than having an in-County burial.
- 4.) If a resident of another Minnesota county dies in Fillmore County, the burial costs must be approved by the County of Financial Responsibility.

This policy will be reviewed biennially or at the County Board's discretion.

Attachment: Application for County Burial Form

Approved at July 7th, 2015 Board Meeting.

APPLICATION FOR FILLMORE COUNTY BURIAL

- Eligibility and approval for County burial must be preauthorized.

All resources of the Deceased will be reviewed and applied toward the county burial including resources owned jointly or available through inheritance by a responsible relative

- There cannot be any enhancements.

When the County assumes financial responsibility for final disposition, the cost of the burial cannot exceed the county limits, and there cannot be any enhancements to the services/items allowed in the County's burial policy. The County will not pay for accessory services or items such as flowers, honorariums, music, processions, clothes, printed material, food, or other such items. The family and funeral home must work closely with the County Burial Assistance Coordinator.

This form is available at the Fillmore County Social Services, 902 Houston St, Suite 1, Preston, MN. or through the Funeral Director.

Completed forms may be faxed to 507-765-3895. Questions? 507-765-2175

Authorization and approval of County Burial must be received prior to making funeral plans.

Name of Deceased	DOB	SSN
Address		
Date of death		
Name of Funeral Home		
Name of living spouse or parents (if minor)		
Address		

BURIAL BENEFITS & RESOURCES

Does the Deceased have a pre-paid burial fund or other burial benefit plan?	Yes/No	If "yes," where and in what amount?	
Is the Deceased eligible for Veteran's burial benefits?	Yes/No	If "yes," what amount?	
Does the Deceased have a burial plot?	Yes/No	If "yes," where?	

ASSETS OF DECEASED

MONTHLY INCOME

Employment	\$	Retirement, Pension	\$
Social Security	\$	Other earned/unearned	\$

LIFE INSURANCE

Name of Company/Fund	Amount	Beneficiary

SAVINGS

Name of Bank, Address	Account Number	Account Balance

CHECKING

Name of Bank, Address	Account Number	Account Balance

OTHER ASSETS (STOCKS, BONDS, CDS, ETC)

Type of Asset	Amount

REAL ESTATE/PROPERTY

Type of Property	Address/Location	Value
Home/homestead		\$
Rental Property		\$
Other non-homestead property		\$
Vehicles		\$

ASSETS OF NEXT OF KIN

Name of Next of Kin	Relationship to Deceased

Are any of the next of kin named beneficiary on any of the Deceased insurance policies?	Yes/No
Are any of the next of kin a joint owner or "payee on death" of any of the Deceased assets?	Yes/No
If "yes," specify what assets and the estimated value	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

Why is a county burial needed? Why can't the family provide for the Deceased's final disposition/burial

Any information supplied on this application can be verified. False reporting of assets or financial responsibility can be prosecuted as fraud.

To the best of my knowledge all the above statements are true and correct.

I agree that the available assets determined by the County which reduce the County's payment for funeral/burial costs will be paid promptly to the County.

Signed _____ Date _____

Relationship to the Deceased _____

County Use ONLY

Approved for County Burial Assistance: () Yes () No

\$ _____ is determined as the amount of obligation. The county payment will be \$ _____

Approved by (county staff) _____ Date _____

Revision: Feb 2009