Cemetery Minimum Maintenance Guidelines
By The Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission

ORC Section 4767.06(H) Adopt and publish suggested maintenance guidelines for all cemeteries
registered in the state of Ohio under ORC Chapter 4767

Definitions

• “Person” means any corporation, company, partnership, individual or other entity owning or operating a cemetery
  for the disposition of human remains.
• “Cemetery” means any one or a combination of more than one of the following: a burial ground for earth
  interments, a mausoleum for crypt entombments, a columbarium for the deposit of cremated remains, a
  scattering ground for the spreading of cremated remains.
• “Interment” means the disposition of human remains by earth burial, entombment or inurnment.
• “Burial Right” means the right of earth interment.
• “Entombment right” means the right of entombment in a mausoleum.
• “Columbarium right” means the right of inurnment in a columbarium for cremated remains.

Grounds and Structure

• Cut grass once per month during the growing season.
• Trim around markers and/or monuments three times a year.
• Remove underbrush, leaves, tree seedlings, and dead trees and flowers.
• Remove trash and funeral flowers once a month (artificial flowers once a year).
• Sod or seed graves as necessary within one year of interment.
• Foundations for new markers that have been ordered should be set within one calendar year.
• Roads, buildings, structures, and fencing should be maintained and repaired as needed.
• Cemetery perimeter should be marked.

Management/Maintenance of Rules, Regulations, and Records

• Electronic or paper cemetery records pertaining to interment, entombment or inurnment right owners and
  interment, entombment or inurnment records indicating the deceased name, place of death, date and location of
  the interment, entombment or inurnment should be maintained in the cemetery’s office. Paper copies of records
  required for the verification of interment, entombment or inurnment rights and cemetery interment, entombment
  or inurnment records as indicated above should be maintained in a fireproof container within the cemetery office.
  If possible duplicate copies of all cemetery records should be maintained off-site. It is permissible to maintain
  records in an electronic format so long as the electronic copies are true copies of all the original documents.
• All graves or lots should be identified by a map that is stored in the office of the cemetery per Ohio Revised Code
  Section 1721.09.
• Effective March 19, 2015, newly developed lots should be pinned and owners’ names should be recorded so that
  family lot positions are clearly identifiable and able to be located.
• Cemeteries should conduct all interments within seven days of the date of the order unless waived by the next of kin
  or other responsible party.
• Rules regarding flowers and decorations should be posted at the cemetery.
• The vault or any other burial container should be placed at least twelve inches below grade.
• The cemetery’s rules and regulations should be provided upon request.
• Cemetery management contact information should be posted at the main public entrance of the cemetery and at the
  onsite office, if one exists.

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