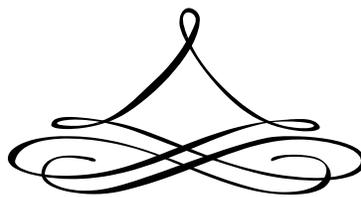




Rules & Regulations
Governing Public Cemeteries
In The City of Taunton



Adopted by
Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Commission

**PARKS, CEMETERIES & PUBLIC GROUNDS DEPARTMENT
CITY OF TAUNTON**

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**PARKS, CEMETERIES & PUBLIC GROUNDS DEPARTMENT
CITY OF TAUNTON**

RULES AND REGULATIONS

For the mutual protection of every lot purchaser these rules and regulations are hereby adopted as the rules and regulations of the Parks, Cemeteries and Public Grounds Department of the City of Taunton for all property owners and visitors within the Cemetery.

All lots sold shall be subject to said rules and regulations, and subject, further, to such other rules and regulations, amendments or alterations as shall be adopted by the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department from time to time. The reference to these rules and regulations in the certificate of ownership to lots shall have the same force and effect as if set fourth in full therein.

GENERAL SUPERVISION OF CEMETERIES

The Commissioner shall have general supervision of all Cemeteries and persons working for the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department under control of the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Commission.

RULE 1A

COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE OF FUNERALS. All funerals on reaching the Cemetery shall be under the charge of the Commissioner, or his/her assistants.

RULE 1B

CASKETS NOT TO BE DISTURBED. Once a casket containing a body is within the confines of the Cemetery, no Funeral Director, or his embalmer, assistant, employee or agent, shall be permitted to open the casket or to touch the body without the consent of the legal representative of the deceased.

INTERMENTS AND DISINTERMENTS

RULE 2A

SUBJECT TO LAWS. Besides being subject to these rules and regulations, all interments, disinterments and removals are made subject to the orders and laws of the properly constituted authorities of the City, County and State.

RULE 2B

TIME AND CHARGES. All interments, disinterments and removals must be made at the time and in the manner and upon such charges as fixed by the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Commission.

RULE 2C

NO INTERMENTS SUNDAYS. Interments, disinterments or removals shall not be permitted on Sunday. The receiving tomb may be used in cases of emergency.

RULE 2D

NOTICE. The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Commission reserves the right to insist upon at least twenty-four hours' notice prior to any interment, and at least one week's notice prior to any disinterment or removal.

RULE 2E

AUTHORIZATION OF ONE LOT OWNER SUFFICIENT. The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department reserves the right to make an interment of any member of the immediate family of any one of several lot owners upon his written authorization. No other person may be interred without the written consent of all those owners of the lot.

RULE 2F

LOCATION OF INTERMENT SPACE. When instructions regarding the location of an interment space in a lot cannot be obtained, or are indefinite or when for any reason the interment space cannot be opened where specified, the Commissioner may, in his/her discretion, open it in such location in the lot as he/she deems best and proper, so as not to delay the funeral, and the Department shall not be liable in damages for any error so made.

RULE 2G

ORDERS GIVEN BY TELEPHONE. The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department shall not be held responsible for any order given by telephone, or for any mistake occurring from the want of precise and proper instructions as to the particular space, size and location in the lot where interment is desired.

RULE 2H

ERRORS MAY BE CORRECTED. The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department reserves and shall have, the right to correct any error that may be made either in making interment, disinterment, or removals, or in the description, transfer or conveyance of any interment property, either by canceling such conveyance and substituting and conveying in lieu thereof other interment property of equal value and similar location as far as possible, or as may be selected by the Commissioner, or in the sole discretion of the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Commission, by refunding the amount of money paid on account of said purchase. In the event such error shall involve the interment of the remains of any person in such property, the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department reserves, and shall have the right to remove and to transfer such remains so interred to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof.

RULE 2I

DELAYS IN INTERMENT CAUSED BY PROTESTS. The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department shall be in no way liable for any delay in the interment of a body where a protest to the interment has been made, or where the rules and regulations have not been complied with; and, further, said Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department reserves the right, under such circumstances to place the body in the receiving vault until the full rights have been determined.

RULE 2J

INTERMENT OF MORE THAN ONE BODY. No more than one body, or the remains of one body, shall be interred in one grave except in the case of an infant child with an adult, or two children under five years of age. No more than three cremated remains with one flat marker may be buried in any grave already occupied, space permitting.

RULE 2K

DEPARTMENT'S EQUIPMENT MUST BE USED. Artificial grass, lowering devices and other equipment owned by the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department should be used exclusively in making interments, disinterments and removals. Private arrangements made by the Funeral Director with a vault company will be allowed based on current fee schedule.

DISINTERMENTS AND REMOVALS

RULES 3A

MAY OBTAIN LARGER LOT. A body or cremated remains may be removed from its original lot with proper documentation, to a larger or better lot in a City Owned Cemetery or another Cemetery when there has been an exchange or purchase for that purpose.

RULE 3B

CARE IN REMOVAL. The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department shall exercise the utmost care in making a removal, but it shall assume no liability for damage to any casket or burial case or urn incurred in making the removal.

CONTROL OF WORK BY DEPARTMENT

RULE 4

WORK TO BE DONE BY PARKS, CEMETERIES & PUBLIC GROUNDS DEPARTMENT. All improvements or alterations of individual property in the Cemetery shall be under the direction of and subject to the consent, satisfaction and approval of the Commissioner. All workmen in any capacity within the confines of the Cemetery are subject to the direction of the Commissioner.

ROADWAY AND REPLATTING

RULE 5

THE RIGHT TO REPLAT, REGRADE AND USE OF PROPERTY. The right to enlarge, reduce, replat or change the boundaries or grading of the Cemetery or of a section or sections

from time to time, including the right to modify or change the locations of, or remove or regrade roads, drives and walks, or any part thereof, is hereby expressly reserved. The right to lay, maintain and operate or alter or change pipe lines, gutters, or drainage, etc. is also expressly reserved, as well as the right to use cemetery property, not sold to individual lot owners, for cemetery purposes or for anything necessary, incidental or convenient thereto.

The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department reserves to itself, and to those lawfully entitled thereto, a perpetual right of ingress and egress over lots for the purpose of passage to and from other lots.

CONDUCT OF PERSONS WITHIN THE CEMETERY

RULE 6A

MUST USE WALKS. Persons within the Cemetery grounds shall use only the avenues, walks, and roads, and any person injured while walking on the grass, except that be the only way to reach his lot, or while on any portion of the Cemetery other than the avenues, walks, or roads shall in no way hold the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department liable for any injuries sustained.

RULE 6A.1

ANIMALS PROHIBITED. It is unlawful for any person to take a dog into city cemetery grounds, or to allow or permit any dog in such person's care or custody to remain within the limits of the cemetery grounds, with the exception of guide and companion dogs assisting the disabled.

RULE 6B

FLOWERS, ETC. All persons are prohibited from gathering flowers, either wild or cultivated, or breaking trees, shrubbery or plants, or disturbing the birds or other animal life.

RULE 6C

LOUNGING ON GROUNDS. Strangers shall not be permitted to sit or to lounge on any of the grounds, graves or monuments in the Cemetery or in any of the buildings.

RULE 6D

LOUD TALKING. No loud talking shall be permitted on the Cemetery Grounds within hearing distance of funeral services.

RULE 6E

AUTOMOBILES. Automobiles shall not be driven through the grounds at a greater speed than 15 miles per hour. Automobiles are not allowed to park or come to a full stop in front of an open grave unless such automobiles are in attendance at the funeral.

RULE 6F

NOTICES AND ADVERTISEMENTS. No sign or notice or advertisement of any kind shall be allowed in the Cemetery unless placed by the Commissioner.

RULE 6G

HOURS GROUNDS AND OFFICE OPEN. The Commissioner's office at the Parks, Cemeteries and Public Grounds Department at 170 Harris Street, will be open week days except holidays, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

RULE 7A

PROTECTION AGAINST LOSS. The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department shall take reasonable precaution to protect lot owners and the property rights of lot owners, within the Cemetery from loss or damage, but it distinctly disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control, and, especially from damage caused by the elements, an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasion, insurrections, riots, or order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral, other than as herein provided.

RULE 7B

COMMISSIONER TO ENFORCE RULES. The Commissioner is hereby empowered to enforce all rules and regulations, and shall have charge of grounds and buildings, and at all times shall have supervision and control of all persons in Cemetery, including the conduct of funerals, traffic and employees.

PERPETUAL CARE

RULE 8A

PERPETUAL CARE OF LOTS. The term "perpetual care", used in reference to lots, shall be held to mean the cutting of the grass upon said lots at reasonable intervals, the raking and cleaning of the lots, meaning and intending the general preservation of the lots, and the grounds, to the end that said grounds shall remain and be reasonably cared for as Cemetery grounds forever.

RULE 8B

PERPETUAL CARE EXCEPTIONS. The term "perpetual care" shall in no case be construed as meaning the maintenance, repair or replacement of any grave stones or monumental structures or memorials placed or erected on lots, nor the planting of flowers or ornamental plants, nor the maintenance or doing of any special or unusual work in the Cemetery.

RULE 8C

PARKS, CEMETERIES & PUBLIC GROUNDS COMMISSION TO DIRECT EXPENDITURES. The income from the perpetual care fund shall be expended by the Board of Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Commissioners in such manner as will, in its judgment, be most advantageous to the property owners as a whole, and in accordance with the purposes and provisions of the laws of the State applicable to the expenditure of such funds

RULE 8E

EXPENDITURE LIMITED TO INCOME. Perpetual care, whether applied to lots, graves, or to any space within the confines of the Cemetery, shall be limited absolutely to the income received from the investment of the perpetual care fund-no part of the principal being expended-anything herein stated to the contrary notwithstanding.

RULE 8F

RECORD OF DEPOSITS. The records of the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department, and the receipt issued by the City Treasurer with whom such funds have been deposited, shall show the amount of perpetual care fund that has been required of the individual and set aside in each case.

RULES FOR MONUMENTS & FOUNDATIONS

RULE 9

MONUMENTS . No monument or other memorial may be brought into the Cemetery, until a sketch or blueprint, showing the design, material, finish size and proposed inscription thereon, is first submitted to the Commissioner or designated representative for approval. The Commissioner and Commission reserves the right to reject any plan or design for a memorial which on account of size, design, inscription, finish or quality of stone is unsuited to the lot on which it is to be placed. Markers and monuments must be of natural stone. No artificial material of any description is permitted. All die stones shall be finished at least on front and back.

Persons engaged in erecting monuments and other structures, are prohibited from attaching ropes to monuments, trees and shrubs, or from scattering their material over adjoining lots, or from blocking avenues or walks, or from leaving their material on the grounds longer than is absolutely necessary.

- They must do as little injury to the grass, trees and shrubs as possible, and must remove all debris and restore the grounds and sod to its original condition.
- No material, machinery, or other things for the construction of monuments, or monuments themselves, may be brought into the Cemetery until required for immediate use; nor, under any circumstances, when a funeral is in process; nor between Saturday noon and Monday morning; and no work shall be done during said time, without special permission from the Commissioner.
- While a funeral or interment is being conducted nearby all work of any description shall cease.
- Only one central or family memorial shall be allowed on a family lot. Markers must be flat and even with sod except in such cases where markers above ground are already on lots other markers to match will be allowed to complete lot.
- No lot owner shall erect or place, or cause to be erected or placed on any lot in the Cemetery, any memorial in respect of which the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Commissioner disapproves.

- No monument or marker will be allowed to be placed above ground on single graves. Only one flat marker is allowed per single grave lot. All markers must be flush with the sod.
- The size of monument is to be governed by the size of the lot. The length of the base shall be as follows:

2-3 Grave Lot	Minimum 2' x 1 up to 3' x 1' Only
4 Grave Lot	up to 3' x 1
6 Grave Lot	up to 4' x 1
8 Grave or Larger	up to 5' x 1

The combined height for a 2-4 Grave Lot must not exceed 36" from the foundation.

The combined height for a 6-8 Grave Lot must not exceed 42" from the foundation.

- While the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department will exercise all possible care to protect raised lettering, carving or ornaments on any memorial, or other structure, on any lot, it disclaims responsibility for any damage or injury thereto.
- No curbing, fencing, hedging, grave mounds, or enclosures of any kind shall be allowed around any lot. The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Commission reserves the right to remove the same if so erected, planted or placed.

RULE 9A

FOUNDATIONS. The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department, shall install all foundations for memorial, markers, etc. The charges for such foundations shall be reasonable and uniform. The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds shall assume responsibility for the proper construction of such foundations.

Foundation orders received after May 1 cannot be guaranteed for Memorial Day. No foundation will be set between May 15 to May 31, nor between November 1 and April 1. No work will be set up in the spring until the ground is fully settled and in proper condition. No work may be brought to the Cemetery on a weekend or the day before a holiday.

Monument dealers should familiarize themselves with the regulations for they are expected to conform to all rules as stated above.

The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department shall assume responsibility for the proper construction of such foundations. Foundations for all monuments shall be built at least to the depth of the grave. Five days will be required after receipt of order for the construction of foundations for monuments or markers.

SHRUBS, FLOWERS/DECORATIONS

RULE 10

SHRUBS. As of January 1, 2005 the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department will no longer allow the planting of shrubs or trees around monuments. Those monuments before this date will be allowed to continue as long as the family maintains the plantings. At the discretion of the Commissioner or his/her designee, if a planting encroaches on another lot, it will be removed without notice.

The Cemetery reserves to itself the entire control of every tree, shrub, vine or plant growing within its boundaries, including the right of removal without notice when it considers such removal advisable. All persons are forbidden to gather flowers or to break or injure and tree, shrub, vine or plant. The Commissioner or its designated representative may remove from lots anything objectionable or injurious to the uses and purposes of the Cemetery or contrary to the rules and regulations.

RULE 10A

FLOWER BEDS. Lot owners shall have the privilege of planting to the extent of one (1) flowerbed and shall be the responsibility of the lot owner or family member. Plantings, where permitted shall be at the owner's expense. All plantings are subject to the approval and supervision of the Commission or designated representative.

Flower beds may not exceed the length of the monument nor one foot in width (12" inches) and must be maintained in weed-free condition at all times by the lot owner. Flowerbeds are not allowed on any single grave lot. Unsightly beds may be removed at any time at the discretion of the Commissioner or its authorized representative. A fee will be charged for such removal.

No settees, urn, votive candle, ironwork, fencing or any other type of decoration shall be allowed around any monument or single grave lot.

The Cemetery will not be responsible for anything placed or left on the lots by the owners. When the owners perform work on lots, they must remove all rubbish and excavated earth to such place as provided for that purpose.

Flowers and decorations on monuments shall be allowed only between May 10th and October 1st and between November 15th and April 1st. The Cemetery will remove and dispose of decorations which remain or are placed upon a lot during the periods of April 1 to May 1 and October 1 to November 15, except that decorations may be temporarily placed on a lot during the period of the Wednesday before Easter through the Wednesday following Easter. Such decorations, unless removed by the lot owner, will be removed and disposed of by the Cemetery.

No Flowerbed or decoration will be allowed on a single grave lot during the period of April 1 to November 1. Flower containers will be allowed the week before Memorial Day and the week after Memorial Day only.

DISCLAIMER OR LIABILITY

RULE 11

LIABILITY. The City of Taunton disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage to any lot, monument, memorial or planting from causes beyond its reasonable control, especially from loss or damage caused by an act of God, the elements, earthquake, war, common enemy, air raid, invasion, insurrection, riot, order or any military or civil authority, thieves, VANDALS, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents or any cause, similar of dissimilar, beyond the control of the Cemetery whether the loss or damage be direct of related.

RULE 11A

EXCEPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS. Special cases may arise in which the literal enforcement of a rule may impose unnecessary hardship. The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department, therefore, reserves the right, without notice, to make exceptions, suspensions or modifications in any of these rules and regulations when in its judgment, the same appear advisable, and such temporary exceptions, suspensions or modifications shall in no way be construed as affecting the general application of such rule.

RULE 11B

AMENDMENTS. The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department may and it hereby expressly reserves the right, at any time or times, to adopt new rules and regulations, or to amend, alter or repeal any rule, regulations or article, section, paragraph, or sentence in these rules and regulations.

Addendum: As adopted by Commission (2005)

Reduced Rate Burials/Assisted Burials

Does not include the deeded rights of a grave unless a single grave lot is purchased. A marker may only be placed on a single grave if the current lot fee is paid in full. Fees must be paid for by certified check or money order.

If you have any question about a rule, please call the Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Office
at 508-821-1415 or you may E-Mail: pcpgdir@tmlp.net

Adopted 1942

Amended 1979, 2005,2009

**PARKS, CEMETERIES & PUBLIC GROUNDS DEPARTMENT
CITY OF TAUNTON**

APPENDIX

**SCHEDULE OF CHARGES
PRICES SUBJECT TO YEARLY REVIEW**