

**WHITE PIGEON TOWNSHIP CEMETERY
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

PURPOSE:

The rules and regulations contained herein are the result of much study and investigation of the overall problems which have resulted over the past years within the White Pigeon Township Cemetery. They are not intended to restrain lot owners of interment rights, but to protect and preserve the cemetery and the community. Your cooperation and adherence to these rules will assist us to create and preserve the simplicity, safety and ease of upkeep of the White Pigeon Township Cemetery.

A. URNS:

A-1 Urns are the liability of the lot owners and are governed by the rules and regulations of the cemetery. The cemetery assumes no obligation as to the care, maintenance or protection of urns, or for any damage which may result to urns placed upon lots. Urns not filled by June 15th will not be permitted to remain in the cemetery.

A-2 The planting and placement of urns is prohibited without the consent of the White Pigeon Township Clerk, cemetery caretaker or other approved authority. The planting and placement of urns is also prohibited until a valid deed or cemetery lot certificate has been issued and paid for.

A-3 All urns placed in the White Pigeon Township Cemetery must be of a conventional urn type and style as approved by the township. All urns must be semi-permanent or permanent in type, and must be placed upon a concrete base. This base must be at least as wide as the urn. The base is to be placed upon the lot in such a location as approved by the cemetery, in either the monument or marker row, and must not encroach on any adjacent grave or lot owned by another, or encroach upon an isle way or walkway. Urns shall not be placed in front of or behind a monument.

A-4 All urns must be sufficient enough in weight that they will remain upright and in place on windy days, with the exception of extreme weather conditions. Urns which have blown or fallen off their base or are not in the proper place will not be permitted.

A-5 A maximum of one urn (upon a concrete base) per single monument or two urns upon two separate bases per double monument is permitted.

A-6 One unpainted, heavyweight statue (upon a concrete base) may be substituted for an urn.

A-7 An urn may not be used in place of a monument.

A-8 Urns which become broken, unsightly in appearance or a nuisance to the upkeep of the cemetery or to other lot owners will not be permitted.

A-9 Urns or statues which do not comply with all of the above rules will be removed from the cemetery without notice. Any urns which are removed from the White Pigeon Township Cemetery will be placed in storage for not more than one year, after which time they may be disposed of without notice. Make arrangements with the White Pigeon Township Clerk to pick up any urns which have been removed.

B. PLANTINGS:

B-1 Hereafter, bushes, trees and live perennial plants may not be planted on any lot or lots in the White Pigeon Township Cemetery.

B-2 Any bushes or trees already planted on lot or lots must be kept trimmed to specification by the lot owner or lot keeper. Any plants which impede upon a monument will not be permitted. Any plants which are untrimmed, or which become a nuisance by reason of their branches, roots, appearance or otherwise become detrimental to adjacent lots,

alleys or roadways, or an inconvenience to other lot owners or to the upkeep of the cemetery, will be removed without notice and possibly at the expense of the lot owner.

B-3 Potted plants, whether real or artificial, may not be planted in the ground, but must be left in the pot above the surface of the ground. Potted plants must not be placed in front of or behind graves, but to the side to give lawnmower clearance. All such potted plants may be in pots not to exceed ten (10) inches in diameter and limited to one (1) per single marker, two per double marker. Any potted plant must be sufficient enough in weight that it will remain upright and in place on windy days, with the exception of extreme weather conditions.

B-4 Any plant or artificial flower or flower arrangement not in a pot must either be securely attached to the monument itself or be placed in an urn.

B-5 The use of wire, nails, iron rods or other devices to anchor flower vases, baskets, or other objects to the ground will not be permitted.

B-6 Mounds, plantings, or other objects which hinder the free use of a lawn mower or other gardening apparatus are prohibited.

C. SURFACES:

C-1 Surfaces other than earth or sod are prohibited.

C-2 No person shall remove sod or earth from any lot, alley or roadway.

C-3 No sand, gravel, washed gravel, crushed stone or other loose material may be used in the construction of washes around the bases or markers or monuments.

C-4 Steps or artificial walkways of any kind are not permitted.

C-5 Mounds raised around graves will not be permitted.

C-6 No lot area shall be covered with carpets, cloth burlap or any other material during the winter months. Leaves or evergreen boughs may be used instead.

D. OTHER DECORATIONS:

D-1 The decoration of lots or graves with fencing, edging, boxes, toys, shells, images, sculptures and painted statues (ceramic or otherwise), wire screens, arbors, trellises, individual artificial flowers anchored in the ground or any objects of a similar nature is prohibited. No shepherds staffs, hooks, hangers, etc., are allowed in the cemetery. No glass or ceramic objects or containers of any kind are permitted in the cemetery.

D-2 Winter decorations-decorative balls and wreaths-are welcome between October 31 and April 1. Tripods are welcome for those decorations not secured directly to the headstone. Winter decorations may be placed anywhere on a lot, as mowing lots is not necessary during the winter months.

D-3 Summer decorations-annual flowers in pots, urns, saddles- are welcome from April 1 to September 30. All decorations must be to the side of a headstone, as not to impede mowing. One potted plant and one flower saddle or one urn plus one flower saddle per single marker will be permitted. Two flower pots or two urns plus one flower saddle per double marker be permitted. NO additional decorations exceeding these limits will be allowed.

D-4 Settees, benches and chairs are not permitted to be placed in the White Pigeon Township Cemetery.

D-5 Service markers are allowed (but not as a substitute for a monument) and will be cemented into the foundation wash around monuments and markers whenever possible. If this is not possible, service markers should be placed to the right or left of the monument.

D-6 As part of the annual spring and fall cleanup, the cemetery will remove all decorations which they have determined to have no further use. If lot owners wish to save their winter decorations, they must remove them before April 1. If they wish to save their summer decorations, they must remove them before September 30.

D-7 The cemetery will not be responsible for loss or damage to any articles left upon any lot, grave or other part of the cemetery.

E. PROTECTING THE BEAUTY, UPKEEP, and SAFETY of THE CEMETERY:

E-1 The White Pigeon Township Cemetery will furnish water for the use of all who wish to maintain flowers, urns, etc. This water will be available from the various outlets within the cemetery grounds from April 1 to September 30.

E-2 No person shall leave any refuse in the cemetery except that which they deposit in the receptacles provided.

E-3 No glass or ceramic objects or containers of any kind are permitted in the cemetery.

E-4 No children will be allowed in the cemetery unless attended by an adult who will be responsible for their conduct.

E-5 The use of the cemetery as a playground is not permitted.

E-6 The speed limit in the cemetery is 10 miles per hour on all cemetery drives.

E-7 Vehicles are requested not to turn around on the drives, but to drive around a section. Turning around and backing up cause increased risk of running into headstones which are placed close to the roadway.

E-8 No ATV's or other off-road motorized vehicles are permitted within the cemetery.

E-9 No dogs, horses or other domesticated animals are permitted within the cemetery.

E-10 The cemetery ground is officially closed to the public from one hour after sunset until sunrise.

F. PURCHASE OF BURIAL RIGHTS

F-1 The purchase of burial rights within the White Pigeon Township Cemetery conveys the right and privilege of burial of approved person or persons upon location specified the right to construct approved markers and other rights subject to the rules and regulations of the White Pigeon Township Cemetery.

F-2 The purchase of burial rights within any area of the White Pigeon Township Cemetery shall be made valid only by assignment of a Deed or Burial Rights Certificate signed and sealed by the White Pigeon Township, and indicating the precise location of purchase of burial rights. The precise location of purchase is designated by the proper combination of lot, block section and grave values within a particular division of the cemetery. In addition, no area of the White Pigeon Township Cemetery will be considered sold until paid for in full.

F-3 Terms of all burial rights sales are cash or check.

F-4 Payment is due in full at the time of burial rights assignment, unless other payment arrangements are approved by the White Pigeon Township.

F-5 Lots not paid for will receive a thirty (30) day grace period, after such time the lot may revert back to the cemetery and any money paid will be kept as liquidated damages.

F-6 The White Pigeon Township reserves the right to limit the sales of burial rights for burial purposes and intended burial purposes, and will not knowingly sell lots for investment purposes, and no person shall be allowed to speculate in said lots.

F-7 Burial spaces are exempt from taxation and liability for debt. No mortgage or other encumbrance can be placed upon them.

G. BURIAL RIGHTS TRANSFERS

G-1 Burial Rights shall not be transferred from one party to another without the consent of the White Pigeon Township, and without following the proper procedures, as determined by the White Pigeon Township.

G-2 Burial Rights Certificates, Deeds or any other agreements, written or otherwise implied, made or agreed to by anyone other than the White Pigeon Township Office and the approved party shall not be valid and will not be honored.

G-3 The Township has the right to refuse the transfer of burial rights from one party to another, and may require that a Deed or Burial Rights Certificate be bought back by the Township before being transferred to another party.

H. BURIALS

H-1 No interments will be permitted to be made on any lots for which deeds or Burial Rights Certificates have not been issued nor which have unpaid charges or liens against them. Interments can be permitted upon payment of the unpaid charges or liens or satisfactory arrangements completed for their payment.

H-2 Interments will not be permitted until payment for burial has been received.

H-3 Interments in the White Pigeon Township Cemetery will not be permitted without a valid Burial Transmit Report or Cremation Certificate.

H-4 Interments in lots for which deeds or burial permits have been issued shall be restricted to members of the family and relatives of the owner or owners thereof.

H-5 No interment of any body other than that of a human being will be permitted.

H-6 The interment of two bodies in one grave is prohibited, excepting the simultaneous death and burial of either a mother or father and infant, infant twins or two infants that died at the same time, provided that this does not involve the burial of two caskets on top of each other, and does not in any manner encroach upon adjacent lots, grave spaces or aisle ways.

H-7 Burial restrictions are as follows:

- a) A grave space in Baby Memorial Park: Burial restricted to one infant burial or one infant cremation.
- b) A special cremation grave space: Burial restricted to two cremations. No burials.
- c) A regular, adult-classed burial space: Burial restricted to either 2 cremations and no bodies or 1 body and 1 cremation.

H-8 All burials in White Pigeon Township Cemetery, including the burial of ashes, are to be made in concrete or metallic outer cases. Concrete outer cases are defined as concrete vaults, concrete boxes, and wood, metal or other substance encased in concrete. Metallic outer cases are those constructed of material not less than 12 gauge thickness.

H-9 The Cemetery reserves the right to refuse any order for interment unless the application for the same is made at least sixteen (16) working hours in advance of the funeral hour.

H-10 The White Pigeon Township will not assume any responsibility for errors in location in the opening of graves when such orders are given by telephone. Orders by undertakers for the opening of graves will be construed as orders from the lot owner or owners.

H-11 A change of location after the grave space has been dug, or after interment, will be made at the expense of the lot owner or funeral director.

H-12 Interments or disinterments during the winter months when the ground is frozen will incur charges in accordance with the difficulty of the work.

H-13 The White Pigeon Township Clerk or his or her duly appointed assistant shall supervise all interments and make all charges as they have been designated by the White Pigeon Township Board, incidental to said interments.

H-14 No demonstrations, memorial services or other concerted activity, unrelated to funerals, cenotaph services or interments may be held in the cemetery without prior authorization from the White Pigeon Township.

H-15 All outer burial cases over five (5) feet in length will be classed as adult size.

H-16 All graves will be opened and closed by employees of the White Pigeon Township, the cemetery caretaker, or another duly appointed assistant and graves will not be reopened for inspection except for official investigation.

H-17 All vaults that are used for burials in White Pigeon Township Cemetery must be in place to receive casket one hour prior to the scheduled time of the funeral service.

H-18 The White Pigeon Township will assume no responsibility for any damage that might occur in the placing of a body in any mausoleum or crypt, other than performing the service required with the utmost diligence and care.

H-19 Funeral Directors shall contact the cemetery before definitely establishing the time of a funeral. The cemetery reserves the right to ask for a change in the funeral hour so as to best serve the families of the deceased.

H-20 All funerals and interments made in White Pigeon Township Cemetery are to be conducted in an orderly and dignified manner. The Township Clerk, cemetery caretaker or a duly appointed assistant are authorized to take any means necessary to preserve this order and dignity.

H-21 All funeral processions, while in the cemetery, will be under the direction and control of the Township Clerk, cemetery caretaker or a duly appointed assistant and all funeral processions and cemetery cars and trucks shall have preference over all other cars.

H-22 Strangers are asked not to approach a grave during a funeral. When deemed necessary by the Township Clerk, or upon request of the lot owner or his representative, a funeral zone may be established and no one except persons attending the funeral or otherwise authorized will be permitted within its boundaries.

H-23 No burials will be permitted to be marked with vase, urn, memorial, receptacle, or other article of any nature bearing the name of the mortician, memorial dealer, or other dealer, trade names accepted.

H-24 No responsibility will be assumed for the protection and maintenance of flowers, wreaths, emblems or other items used at funerals. As soon as such items become unsightly or faded, they will be removed.

H-25 No disinterment of a body will be made until the written consent of the next of kin of the person whose body is to be disinterred and all other legal documentation has been submitted.

I. FOUNDATIONS

I-1 It is the intent of the White Pigeon Township to have foundations installed at least twice yearly, once in April and once in September. If quantities are great enough to warrant a pouring in mid-summer, we will attempt to do so.

I-2 All foundations will be installed with the top of the foundation conforming to the lot grade as determined by the cemetery.

I-3 All orders for the installation of foundations for memorial work must be submitted on the order blank of that monument dealer with full particulars thereon. These blanks must give all information as requested and the material certification must be signed by a responsible party of the person, firm or corporation ordering the foundation. The

White Pigeon Township will not be bound to honor these foundation orders until the above instructions have been complied and paid for.

I-4 Foundations will be charged to the person, firm or corporation ordering the foundation installed. All charges for foundations must be paid within thirty (30) days from the date of invoice.

I-5 All foundations for memorial work placed in the White Pigeon Township Cemetery shall be installed by the cemetery caretaker or another authorized agent, and all such work shall be under the direction of the White Pigeon Township Clerk.

J. MEMORIALS

J-1 All mausoleums, monuments, headstones, markers or other permanent memorials above ground or partly above ground must be constructed of first quality granite. All such memorials which are used in memorial work must be guaranteed by the memorial dealer to be of first grade, clear stone at least six inches in thickness, free from sap or anything which will cause rust stains, resistant to cracking or chipping, and executed in first-grade workmanship.

J-2 No mausoleum, crypt, mausoleum work or any structure above or below the ground, other than standard memorials, may be constructed until complete designs, details and specifications have been submitted to the Board of White Pigeon Township for its approval and suitable arrangements, acceptable to the Board, have been completed for future maintenance.

J-3 No monuments may be placed on a lot before the foundation has been installed.

J-4 Graves are to be marked only with standard memorials which comply with the rules and regulations of White Pigeon Township Cemetery.

J-5 Grave markers made from US Standard Bronze or its equivalent will be allowed.

J-6 Cenotaph markers will be allowed, providing that they are flush with the ground and placed at the foot of the grave of a buried relative. Cenotaph markers may not be placed on an empty grave space. Special permission of the lot owner or owners must be obtained before a cenotaph marker will be placed in the cemetery.

J-7 The White Pigeon Township reserves the right to refuse the permission for the erection of any memorial which on account of size, design, inscription, kind or quality of stone, is in their opinion unsuited to the lot or lots, or the location on which it is to be placed.

J-8 No more than one monument above ground will be allowed per grave. This includes any Veterans memorial or plaque. All Veterans memorials or plaques must be attached to the individual's monument. If an individual chooses not to have a monument then the Veteran's memorial or plaque may serve as the monument. All monuments must have a foundation.

J-9 All memorials will occupy the proper monumental positions on lots, as determined by the township or cemetery caretaker. Memorials other than single markers will be allowed on a single grave space and these will be placed in the marker location.

J-10 All memorials to be set on a lot as platted or which is described as a family lot in the official records of White Pigeon Township Cemetery, must match as to size, design, color and lettering. The maximum size for single markers placed in White Pigeon Township Cemetery shall be one foot in width, two feet in length, and one foot in height, except:

1. Where memorials are to match memorials already on a lot.
2. When slant-faced single memorials are used the maximum size allowed will be one foot in width, two feet in length and sixteen inches in height.

J-11 The maximum size for memorials in Baby land will be twenty inches in length, ten inches in width, and six inches in height.

J-12 Memorials placed upon any special cremation grave (a grave set up for and bought solely for the purpose of cremations) shall be flush with the ground. No more than two cremations shall be permitted to be buried on a regular, adult-classed burial space. Although this results in two persons on one burial space, any marker erected on such space may not exceed the width of the single grave space.

J-13 No memorial may be erected on any lot or grave until such lot or grave space is fully paid for and the burial permit issued or until any other charges are paid in full.

J-14 All memorials which are determined as monuments are to be leveled when set and the bases are to be securely attached to the foundation.

J-15 Any damage to turf, trees, shrubs, flowers or structures resulting from the delivery or setting of memorial work will be assessed to the person, firm or corporation selling the memorial work.

J-16 The Township of White Pigeon will not be responsible for any damage or vandalism to any foundation, monument or mausoleum in the White Pigeon Township Cemetery.

J-17 If a memorial shall become unsightly, in need of repair or attention, or a menace, the cemetery will notify the owner or owners thereof to take such steps as necessary to place the structure in satisfactory condition. If such owner or owners fail to comply with this notice within a reasonable length of time, the cemetery shall have the right to cause the necessary repairs to be made and the cost thereof shall be charged to the owner or owners. Any such charge resulting from such action, remaining unpaid for a period of six months or more will constitute a lien upon the lot or lots.

J-18 No memorial may be removed from the lot or lots, or take from the cemetery, without the proper notification to the Township Clerk.

The Rules and Regulations of the White Pigeon Township Cemetery are available at the White Pigeon Township office, and the cemetery assumes no responsibility for memorial sales which may be made in conflict with these rules and regulations, nor does the cemetery assume any responsibility for and information transmitted during memorial transactions other than that covered in the official rules and regulations, and transmitted by its duly authorized agents.

It is the lot owner's responsibility to make sure that his or her lot is in compliance with the current rules of the White Pigeon Township Cemetery.

The above rules may not be all-inclusive and may be subject to review, revision, amendments, additions or deletions at the discretion of the White Pigeon Township Board.

White Pigeon Township Board

White Pigeon Township Clerk

Nancy K. Morris
Lois Phillips-2010

Revised:
June 1, 1999
July 6, 2010