

# **Muskingum Township Indigent Burial Policy**

## **I. PURPOSE**

### **II. This policy is intended :-**

- a. To give clear guidelines that will be applicable for the burial of indigent residents within Muskingum Township.
- b. To give direction about the burial site of indigent residents.
- c. To ensure that the burial of indigents is equitable.
- d. To outline the procedure for financial assistance required by Muskingum Township.

### **III. Statutory Reference and Statement of Policy**

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code 9.15 and 1713.34, Muskingum Township will only provide cremation or the donation of the body to a medical facility for unclaimed bodies or indigent residents when such persons are deemed the responsibility of Muskingum Township. A Township-funded burial only pays the basic expenses associated with the cremation not exceeding \$750.00. In addition, the Township will attempt to recover its costs from the estate of the deceased.

The guideline for residency will be a current utility bill dated for service in the deceased name at a Muskingum Township address within the previous 30 days. Examples of acceptable bills are gas, electric, telephone or cable. Alternatively, state or federal assistance checks in the deceased name mailed to Muskingum Township address. Residency for nursing home or extended stay residents will be determined by assistance checks in the deceased name mailed to Muskingum Township address, if the resident had recovered where would they live and whether or not they own property in Muskingum

Township. Minimum length of residency in the Township is 10 days unless approved by the approved by a unanimous vote of the presiding trustees.

#### **IV. Responsibilities of Applicant(s) for Indigent Burial**

To be eligible for a Township-funded funeral and burial, the spouse of the deceased or other family member(s) must:

1. Contact the Muskingum Township Trustees (740-373-0189) to obtain an application form. Additionally, most local funeral homes will have application forms available.
2. Submit a completed and signed application for township burial services to the Muskingum Township Trustees.
3. Provide full disclosure and documentation of all assets of the deceased and spouse of the deceased (or parents of a deceased minor) as requested in the application form.

#### **V. Limitations and Conditions**

Muskingum Township will pay for the cost of cremation and burial expenses, subject to the following limitations and conditions:

1. The deceased person is a resident of Muskingum Township and has been deemed the responsibility of the Township.
2. The deceased and/or responsible relatives have insufficient assets to cover funeral and burial expenses.
3. Muskingum Township Trustees have approved the payment of costs before burial.

4. Township funds, up to a maximum of \$750, shall be used for the following:
  - a. Cremation
  - b. Transportation of ashes
  - c. A stone or cement marker with the decedent's name, date of birth and date of death
5. The total cost of the funeral and burial does not exceed \$750.
6. The burial will be in a plot designated by Muskingum Township in a Muskingum Township cemetery.

**VI.** Township funds may not be used for other items or services such as:

1. Services
2. Traditional Burial
3. Flowers
4. Chairs
5. Transport for family members & mourners.
6. Food

**VII. Claims Against Estate**

Muskingum Township will file a claim against the estate of a deceased person who received a Township-funded burial to recover the Township's costs. The Township claim may be filed against extra ordinary funding sources (such as "Go Fund Me") used for the funeral and related expenses.

APPROVED BY MUSKINGUM TWP TRUSTEES ON (\_\_\_\_\_) DATE