



COUNTY OF ONONDAGA  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
*LEGAL DIVISION*  
**RESOURCE UNIT**

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Commissioner

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Income Maintenance Worker

## **INFORMATION SHEET REGARDING INDIGENT BURIAL**

### **1. Relevant Documentation Needed to Complete the Application Process:**

- A bank statement from the prior 30 days, or the most recent bank statement,
- Most recent pay stubs,
- Copies of any life insurance policies,
- Copies of deeds to cemetery lots,
- Copies of deeds to real property

### **2. Burial Services**

- A Burial with Interment entitles an eligible applicant to the following:
  - Up to 2 hours of visitation,
  - A cloth-covered casket,
  - A minimum outer interment receptacle,
  - Burial in Loomis Hill Cemetery, and
  - A 2-inch, no charge, newspaper death notice
- A Burial with Interment does not entitle an eligible applicant to the following:
  - Excessive flowers,
  - Limousines, and
  - Death certificates
- Personal funds up to \$150 may be used to purchase an obituary beyond the newspaper death notice
- The applicant is responsible for the crematory fee.

## **2. Burial Services (continued)**

- The applicant may not choose a private cemetery burial unless:
  - The lot was purchased at least 1 year prior to the date of death, or
  - The decedent was an infant up to 24 months old
- If a private cemetery lot is used, the applicant is personally responsible for the opening fees, closing fees, and cemetery equipment fees.
  
- Please note, that this grant application is not specific to, nor does it commit the services, of any funeral home
- The applicant may choose to utilize another funeral home at any time prior to signing a contract with a funeral home.

## **3. Responsible Parties**

- The following are parties deemed to be legally responsible for payment of funeral expenses:
  - The spouse of the decedent, and
  - The parents and guardians of minors or people adjudged incompetent who can access available resources of the ward to pay for the funeral expenses.
  - If the responsible parties do not have income or resources sufficient to cover funeral costs, they may be eligible for an indigent burial grant.

## **4. Other Important Information**

- If the decedent died as a result of a crime, the funeral costs may be covered by the New York State Crime Victim's Board.
  - Please contact the Office of the Onondaga County District Attorney at (315) 435-2470 for more information.
  
- If the decedent died as a result of a motor vehicle accident, please provide the following:
  - The automobile insurance information for all parties involved in the motor vehicle accident.
  
- If the decedent died as a result of a work-related accident, please provide the following:
  - Worker's Compensation information including, but not limited to, name and address of both the Employer and the Worker's Compensation Carrier.

**Please contact Ms. Mercer at the number listed on the first page for more information.**