

**TOWNSHIP OF PLAINFIELD  
COUNTY OF IOSCO, MICHIGAN  
Ordinance #18  
ESMOND-EVERGREEN  
CEMETERY  
Revised 03/15/2023**

This policy is to protect the public health, safety and general welfare by establishing guidelines relating to the operation, control and management of the cemetery owned by the Township of Plainfield, Iosco County, Michigan.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- A. The cemetery will be used for the remains of human bodies only. The ownership of lots will remain with the Township and the Township reserves the right to enter upon any such lot to provide for its care and upkeep.
- B. Speed limit should not exceed ten miles per hour. **NO** vehicle traffic will be allowed during the nighttime hours.
- C. Pets shall be allowed in the cemetery as long as they are on a leash.
- D. The Cemetery Board will designate the cremation sections.

**UNLAWFUL ACTS:**

- A. The owner of any burial space will not allow interment to be made for the purpose of profit.
- B. **NO** person will be allow to deface, injure, disturb, mark or write on any marker, monument or headstone, except when the work is done to improve or stabilize these objects.
- C. **NO** person shall create any improper noise, disorderly conduct, carelessness, or any other activity which tends to destroy the peace, tranquility and attractive of the cemetery and its sacred devotion to the interment and respect of the dead.
- D. **NO** parking of any vehicle except for cemetery visitation.
- E. **NO** hunting, skiing, sledding, or camping shall be allowed at any time.

**MANAGEMENT:**

- A. The Cemetery Board shall consist of the Township Clerk, the Sexton, and Three (3) residents, appointed by the Supervisor the terms will be for a period of 2 years.
- B. The sexton will be responsible for all grave openings and closures also all lawn maintenance and general upkeep of the cemetery.
- C. The Township Clerk shall prepare cemetery certificates for each grave. The Clerk may replace lost or destroyed certificates upon request. A copy of this policy will be given with each certificate. The Burial rights of graves shall not be transferred to another without approval of the Clerk.

- D. Burials lots may be returned to the Township by mutual consent by signing a transfer of burial sites with the Clerk. If grave (s) are returned to the Township the purchase price if any will be refunded.

#### **TO RESERVE GRAVES OR LOTS:**

- A. All property owners or residents of Plainfield Township, may reserve burials lots as follows: One (1) grave per owner or resident, one (1) grave per spouse, co-owner, or co-resident and two (2) graves for children of the owner or resident, under the age of eighteen (18). A maximum of four (4) graves (1 lot) per owner or resident regardless of the number of parcels owned within the township by any one person.
- B. Residents have the right to reserve graves with a deposit \$50.00 each. Their children under eighteen (18) are exempt from the \$50.00 cost. The graves will revert back to the township when the children reach 18 years of age, unless the child has a mental or physical disability and are in the care of a parent or guardian. If a deposit is placed with the Treasurer to reserve a grave, upon interment, the Township will credit the deposit towards the interment fees.
- C. A property owner or resident who is a Veteran of the Armed Forces may reserve a grave for the Veteran and his or her spouse by producing an Honorable Discharge or separation papers, at no cost.
- D. Transfer will not be allowed to non-resident unless they are Mother, Father, Brother, sister, Grandchild, Daughter, Son, Daughter-in-law and Son-in-law.
- E. A full burial and four (4) cremations can go into the same grave. Only one upright marker will be allowed on the grave.
- F. The Township Board shall determine the cost of burial fees from time to time.
- G. The Certificate holder shall notify the Township if they move with an address to where they may be reached.
- H. Burial rights may revert to the township for cemetery lots or graves spaces that remains unused for a period of fifty - (50) years, as of the adoption of this policy. The last known person on file will be notified.

#### **FUNERAL, INTERMENTS and DISINTERMENTS:**

- A. Conditions to be fulfilled before interment: No interment shall take place without a burial permit, nor until the person making arrangements for the interment has complied with all laws, ordinances and rules and regulations relative to burials.

- B. Funeral directors making arrangements for burials shall be responsible for all interment charges. When an interment is to be made on a lot in any other than a recorded grave space, a written request will be filed with the Township Clerk. Written permission must also be given by the lot owner for the ashes of another person to be buried in the owner's lot.
- C. The Sexton and or Clerk should be given notice 36 hours in advance of a burial. All funerals within the cemetery shall be under the direction of the sexton or an authorized assistant.
- D. When there is a change in the time of the burial, the sexton must receive a two (2) hour notice.
- E. Due to weather or other hazardous conditions, the sexton shall have the sole right and authority to decide whether or not to allow for the hearse use only or the entire funeral procession to enter the cemetery. If not the final services could be conducted in the chapel, with the interment at a later time.
- F. Disinterment of a body once properly interred shall not be made without properly executed disinterment/re-interment permit. Graves to be opened for inspection for official investigation shall require an order signed by a court or competent jurisdiction. Any markers or monuments designation the location of an interment shall be removed at the same time.
- G. The cemetery sexton reserves the right to remove funeral/floral pieces as soon as they become unsightly.
- H. No cremations will be scheduled for the following Holidays: Memorial Day and weekend prior, Mother's Day, Father's Day, July 4<sup>th</sup> and weekend prior and after and Labor Day and weekend prior.
- I. Any cremations that are interned inside a headstone and no inground burial is required the Sexton is required to be present to witness internment. There will be a fee for the time of the Sexton and paperwork

#### **VAULTS, MONUMENTS AND MARKERS:**

- A. VAULTS: All Burials must have an approved vault.
- B. All monuments, headstone and markers, where permitted, must be of recognized durable granite, marble, or standard bronze. The use of sandstone, terracotta, slate, artificial stone, wood or iron in any form is not permitted.
- C. Monuments: Location must be obtained from the sexton; no more than one monument shall be erected on any two (2) graves sites. All monuments must have a foundation (see foundations below). Bronze marker may be installed on the monument. All grave space must be paid in full and certificate be issued. Before a monument can be set.
- D. Markers: Location must be obtained from the sexton; no more than one upright marker shall be erected on any grave, a flat marker is also allowed on each grave. A double gravesite may have a double marker, or a triple site may

have a triple marker. All markers must have a foundation (see foundations below). All grave spaces must be paid in full and certificate be issued. Before a marker can be set.

- E. Foundations: All foundations to be installed between April 15<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>, providing the frost is out of the ground or as otherwise specified by the sexton. Foundations can be no larger than 20" x 48" (inches) per single grave. Monuments and markers up to 48" in length must have a foundation of 4" inches unless it is a slant or over 40" then a 6" foundation must be used. All foundations will extend at least 4" on all sides of the base of the marker. No foundation shall be nearer than two (2) inches from a lot line.

### DECORATIONS OF LOTS:

- A. Copings, fences, curbs, benches, steps, structure of wood or other material used as grave lot border or coverings shall be prohibited. The use of glass jars and bottles as receptacles for cut flowers is ***strictly prohibited***. There shall be ***NO*** arches for hanging baskets allowed, however those erected before this policy shall be permitted only when they are in use and they must not be anchored. ***NO*** elevated mounds, wood chips, decorative stones or rocks, marble slab tops. ***NO*** trees or bushes will be allowed without township approval. ***NO*** deciduous tree or evergreen shall be removed except under the directions and with consent of the sexton.

Receptacles for cut flowers will be permitted if installed flush with surface of the lawn. All decorating cannot exceed 36 inches in height above the ground and must be within 12 inches from the headstone. Any statues, flower pots/planters, etc that become unsightly or unused for over a period of one (1) year will be remove by the sexton, tagged and placed in storage for six (6) months, if not claimed it be will be destroyed.

One Urn shall be allowed per gravesite, it shall be to the side of the marker and shall be permitted only if properly installed and maintained.

Winter decorations may be maintained on graves from November 1<sup>st</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup>. If such decorations are not removed by April 1<sup>st</sup> they shall be considered abandoned and shall be disposed of by the sexton. ***NO*** decorations shall be placed on graves from April 1<sup>st</sup> up to Mother's Day..

Fall Cleanup will occur Oct. 15 thru Nov. 1. All spring and summer decorations shall be removed.

- B. The Township shall notify the owner of any if flowers, trees, hedges or scrubs become unsightly, dangerous or encroach upon adjoining lots or paths. If the owner fails to move them, the Township reserves the right to remove them.

The Township may maintain any planted unit that requires annual trimming or pruning or it shall be removed. Plants at the side of markers shall only be minimal non-spreading flower. The township on a regular basis for uniform maintenance shall cut all grasses. All roads, drives, or paths shall be maintained (graded, filled, snowplowed) by the Township only.

The Plainfield Cemetery Board and Plainfield Board of Trustees will not be held responsible for lost or damaged items/decorations placed on graves.

### **Cemetery Rates**

To Reserve Graves:            Non-Resident            \$600.00 per grave

Resident or Property Owner:

Veteran-with Honorable  
Discharge paper            No Charge

Non-Veteran            \$50.00 Dep. Per grave

Grave Openings: Full size burial

April 1 to Nov. 1            \$300.00

Nov. 1 to April 1            \$400.00

Cremation- Resident            \$ 50.00

Cremation-Non-Resident            \$100.00

\$100.00 extra for a burial on a weekend.

\$250.00 extra for an approved Holiday weekend cremation burial.