



Burial Policy

Burial/Cremation Allowances:

Adult and Children Direct Burial	\$1900.00
Stillborn Direct Burial or Cremation	\$ 600.00
Adult and Children Direct Cremation	\$1200.00
Plot Allowance (not to exceed)	\$ 600.00
Grave opening/closing (not to exceed)	\$ 900.00
Cemetery Equipment Fee (not to exceed)	\$ 210.00
(required for all full burials)	
Winter Storage (if required)	\$ 150.00

If the person making funeral arrangements believes the deceased is eligible for payment of County funds under this policy and allowance schedule, the Funeral Director must contact the Montgomery County Department of Social Services to receive advance approval prior to services being performed. If death occurs on Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, approval must be sought the next business day.

Eligibility under this policy and allowance schedule is dependent upon the deceased qualifying for an indigent burial according to program eligibility criteria. An application must be submitted for these services by a relative, friend or the funeral director within 24 hours of death or on the next business day, keeping in mind that advanced authorization must be secured by the funeral director prior to arrangements being planned or published.

1. The direct burial allowance includes the following: removal (transfer) of remains; basic arrangements; obtaining necessary permits and similar basic services; casket and local transportation.



2. The following items are not included in the basic Social Services burial allowance: embalming, viewing or visitation, death notices, funeral service, graveside service, memorial service, prayer service, clergy honorarium, flower vehicle, limo, hair styling, register book, prayer cards, church or mass, organist, funeral procession, spring burial service, weekend service, or urn for cremation. Social Services will not provide any reimbursement for these items. If these items are provided or requested by the person making the arrangements, the cost for that item is the responsibility of the person arranging the service with the funeral home.
3. Any additional services not included in this policy that would be outside of the basic direct burial allowance would be the responsibility of the person arranging the burial with the funeral home. Social Services will not pay for any services except those covered under #1 of this policy. Social Services will not reimburse for any additional services.
4. The casket may be standard minimum cloth covered cardboard flattop or an approved plastic or fiberglass enclosure. The cost of such casket included in the Social Service Burial Policy will not exceed \$ 430. If an oversized casket is necessary, the \$430 cost of the basic casket will be deducted from the basic allowance and the actual wholesale cost shall be paid in full. A copy of the wholesale invoice for the oversized casket will be submitted to Social Services for verification.
5. In addition to the burial allowance, Social Services will pay the following additional fees as outlined on page one:
 - a. Plot purchase, if necessary.
 - b. cemetery charges for the grave opening and closure
 - c. rent for winter storage, if required
 - d. cemetery equipment fees
6. The cemetery may bill Social Services directly for the charges or the Funeral Director may bill Social Services for the cemetery costs and subsequently pay the cemetery.
7. When a cemetery requires a concrete grave liner, Social Services will reimburse the Funeral Director the full wholesale cost of the least expensive Concrete Mincrypt or equivalent liner available, in addition to the burial allowance, including an oversized concrete or equivalent size grave liner, if required. A copy of the grave liner invoice will be submitted to Social Services for payment.
8. Burial shall be in a cemetery of the choice of deceased or survivor, so far as is cost effective, if there is a paid-in-full gravesite. In addition to the burial allowance, Social Services will pay actual cemetery charges for the purchase of a plot, not to exceed \$600 if necessary.



9. If cremation arrangements were made in advance by the deceased or by an authorized person thereafter and agreed services provide only a minimum of work obtaining certificates, permits and removal then the allowances set forth for Direct Cremation of \$1200 shall be paid to the Funeral Director, plus mileage, if any.
10. If Cremation arrangements are made Social Services will pay crematory charges in addition to the allowances plus mileage, if any. A receipt of these charges must be submitted with invoice from the funeral home. **If crematory fee is billed separately from Funeral Home charge for Direct Cremation, the price will not exceed \$350.**
11. No mileage shall be paid within Montgomery County. In the case of removals, interments or cremation out of county, \$2.00 per loaded mile shall be paid, measured from the Montgomery County line to the place of the removal or crematory.
12. Supplementation by a relative, friend, fraternal organization or similar source is not allowed. If another party wishes to substitute an item or service included in the basic burial/cremation allowance covered by Social Services, they must pay for the entire cost of the service and/or item. The entire cost of this item will be deducted from the Department of Social Services' bill. Items that supplementation may apply to include only caskets and vaults.
13. The maximum allowance shall be paid only upon the Funeral Director submitting a voucher/bill for payment per county policy. The bill must be submitted with the itemization of Funeral Services form and include any receipts as may be required by the NYS Department of Health Regulations and/or fiscal auditors. Payment shall be made to the funeral home within 30 days regardless of cemetery or crematory vouchers pending.
14. In the event the deceased is found to be a Veteran, all charges for the funeral services received will be referred to Veteran Services for payment.
15. **This policy is effective April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2023.**