

# **Rules & Regulations Governing the Operation of Wise Township Cemetery**

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## **ARTICLE I: Title**

1. Rules and guidelines to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare by establishing regulations relating to the operation, control and management of the cemetery owned by the township of Wise, Isabella County, Michigan.
2. To provide penalties for the violations of said rules and guidelines
3. To repeal all rules and guidelines or parts of rules and guidelines in conflict therewith.
4. These rules and guidelines shall be known and cited as Wise Township Cemetery Rules and Guidelines.

## **ARTICLE II: General Rules and Regulations**

1. The cemetery is open to visitors during the summer and winter months from 7:00 AM to sunset.

2. Children are not permitted to enter the cemetery unless accompanied by responsible person.
3. Picking flowers, breaking or injuring trees, shrubs or any planting, marring or defacing any stone work, objector structure will subject the offender to the penalties of the laws of the state of Michigan provided for such offenses.
4. No firearms or instruments of like nature such as air guns, slingshots will be allowed in the cemetery, with the exception of military funerals.
5. No dogs or other domestic animals will be allowed to run about the cemetery.
6. Automobiles entering the cemetery must be driven at a slow speed, not faster than 10 miles per hour. No driving under any circumstances will be permitted on the turf. Cars shall be parked where traffic is not obstructed.

### **ARTICLE III: Lots and Title Thereto**

1. A cemetery lot shall consist of one (1) burial space.
2. A burial space shall consist of a land area four (4) feet wide and ten (10) feet in length.
3. Hereafter, cemetery lots or burial spaces shall be sold in compliance with the Burial Rights Certificate.
4. All lots issued shall be made on a form approved by the township board, which grants a right of burial only and does not convey any other title to the lot or burial space issued. Such form shall be executed by the township sexton, clerk or board representative.
5. Cemetery lots or burial spaces issued after the effective date of these Rules and remaining vacant forty (40) years form the date of their issuance shall automatically revert back to the township upon occurrence of the following events.
  - a. Notice shall be sent by the township sexton or clerk by first class mail to the last know address of the last owner of record of informing him of the expiration of the forty (40) year period and that all rights with respect to said lots or spaces will be forfeited if he does not affirmatively indicate in writing to the township clerk within sixty (60) days from the date of mailing of the within notice his desire to retain said burial rights for another forty (40) years.
  - b. No written response to said notice indicating a desire to retain the cemetery lots or burial spaces in question is received by the township clerk from the last owner of record of said lots or spaces or his heirs or legal representatives within sixty (60) days from the date of mailing of said notice.

### **ARTICLE IV: Sale of Graves or Lots**

1. One (1) lot \$ 75.00, two (2) lots \$150.00, Four (4) lots \$300.00, six (6) lots \$450.00.
2. Non-residence of Wise Township adds \$200.00 to the above prices.

3. Will sell one (1) lot at a time with a maximum of six (6) lots to one person under normal circumstances.
4. Any transfer of one or more burial spaces(s) from an original purchaser to a qualified assignee (beneficiary) shall cost \$15.00. This must be transferred within ninety (90) days of the death of the original Purchaser or they revert back to the township to be resold.
5. the foregoing charges shall be paid to the township treasurer and shall be deposited in the cemetery account for the particular cemetery involved in the sale or transfer.
6. The township board by resolution will annually review the foregoing fees to accommodate increased cost and needed reserved funds for the cemetery maintenance and acquisition.

#### **ARTICLE V: Internments and exhumations**

1. The cost of opening and closing of a lot will be \$300.00 in the summer season (April 1 thru November 30) and \$375.00 in the winter season (December 1 thru March 31). Burial of ashes will be \$50.00 in either the designated cremains area or on a regular lot
2. The opening and closing of any burial space, prior to and following a burial therein, and including the interment of ashes, shall be at a cost to be reviewed annually by resolution of the township board, and made payable to Wise Township.
3. No burial space(s) shall be opened and/or closed except under the direction and control of the cemetery sexton. This provision shall apply to proceedings for the removal and reinterment of bodies and remains, which matters are under the supervision of the local health department.
4. All burials shall be enclosed in an outer burial container (i.e. vault or grave liner) made of concrete before interment.

#### **ARTICLE VI: Memorials**

1. All memorials must be made of granite, marble or bronze.
2. Only one memorial will be permitted on any one grave space and the size must not exceed more than forty (40) inches in length nor twenty-six (26) inches in height. Exceptions to this rule are Government Markers. Government markers may be used in conjunction with another memorial, however, when doing so, the government marker must be set at ground level.
3. Memorials for two (2) or more burial spaces must not exceed sixty-four (64) inches in length nor thirty-two (32) inches in height.
4. The foundations for all memorials (above ground) shall have an 8-inch projection. A five (5)-bag mix is recommended.
5. Flush or ground level memorials are permitted on any grave or graves, however they must be set flush with the grade line and a two (2) inch sand lift is required under them. It is recommended that this type of material be encased in cement with an eight (8) inch projection.

6. The placement of memorials is subject to the control and supervision of the Sexton.
7. Out of due respect, during funeral services in the cemetery, all contractors are required to cease working until the services are completed.
8. Foundation cost is ten (10) cents per inch and it will be eight inches larger than the base to maintain the same in an erect position.
9. Any ashes buried in the designated cremains area will have only flush markers.

#### **ARTICLE VII: Interment Regulations**

1. Only one person may be buried in a burial space except for a parent and infant who die together.
2. Allow a maximum of two cremations or one body and one cremation on a single grave space; and only one memorial will be allowed per grave space.
3. The appropriate permit for the burial space involved, together with appropriate identification of the person to be buried therein, where necessary, shall be presented to either the cemetery sexton or the township representative prior to interment. Where such permit has been lost or destroyed, the township sexton shall be satisfied, from his or her records, that the person to be buried in the burial space is authorized and appropriated one before any interment is commenced or completed.
4. All graves shall be located in an orderly and neat appearing manner within the confines of the burial space involved.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: Care of Lots and Improvements**

1. General care means keeping the grass cut, the pruning of trees, shrubs and plantings, the maintenance of proper roads, entrances and protection, such as fencing when and where it is deemed necessary.
2. The turf level over the graves must conform to the general grade.
3. Lot owners may not cut, remove or disturb the sod or turf provided by the cemetery management.
4. No trees, shrubs, flowers or evergreens may be planted, pruned or removed, without permission of the Sexton.
5. To insure proper planting of trees, shrubs and evergreens. This work must be done with the consent of the Sexton. Plantings done without such consent may be removed without notice.
6. If any tree, plant, shrub or evergreen interferes with the appearance or proper care of a lot or grave, or appears dangerous to any cemetery structure, it may be removed without notice.
7. No enclosure of any nature such as curbing, fencing, coping, hedge or ditch will be allowed around any lot.
8. No benches or like items will be allowed in the cemetery.
9. Lot owners must keep in good repair any structure erected on their lot. Failure to do so will compel the Sexton to order it repaired or removed at the owner's expense.

10. Unsightly containers for flowers such as tin cans, paper containers or glass jars will not be allowed. Flowers may not be placed on graves except in the following manner.
  - a. Winter arrangements may be placed on grave lots beginning November 15, until spring clean up on April 15 of the following year. After this date, the Sexton will remove the arrangements.
  - b. Beginning April 20 and until one week after Memorial Day, both artificial and live floral arrangements may be placed on grave lots, after which the flowers must be placed in one of the following:
  - c. Urns that are placed on concrete slabs adjoining or part of the grave marker base.
11. Pennie planters that are placed on the side of the marker. Note: These holders are placed under the grave marker and extend up the side of the marker.
12. Planters shall be placed alongside the grave marker. ***GLASS JARS, TIN CANS AND PLASTIC CONTAINERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.***
13. The removal of flowers, containers or shrubbery from the graves of others is strictly prohibited.

#### **ARTICLE IX: Records**

1. The township sexton shall maintain records concerning all burials, issuance of burial permits separate and apart from any other records of the township and the same shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable business hours.

#### **ARTICLE X: Vandalism, Littering and Loitering**

1. Any person committing act(s) of said items to constitute above items shall be punished by applicable penalty

#### **ARTICLE XI: Serverability**

1. The provisions of the within Rules and Guidelines are hereby declared to be severable and should any provision, section or part thereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall only affect the particular provision, section or part thereof involved in such decision and shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of such Rules and Guidelines which shall continue in full force and effect.

#### **ARTICLE XII: Effective Date**

1. These Rules and Guidelines shall take effect upon board approval this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 2006.
2. All Rules and Guidelines or parts of Rules and Guidelines in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.