



## Community and Veterans Services

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**TITLE:** County Burial Guidelines

**PURPOSE:** Mille Lacs County provides County burials in recognition of the need of some residents for the service. Policies pertaining to burials are approved by the County Board of Commissioners.

**REFERENCE:** Minnesota Statutes 261.035; Minnesota Statutes 261.04; and Minnesota Statutes 256.935

### PERSONNEL

**RESPONSIBLE:** Financial Assistance Supervisor

**EFFECTIVE:** January 1, 2020

**REVISED:** November 1, 2022

### **POLICY:**

Mille Lacs County Community & Veterans Services will pay the cremation or funeral expenses for recipients of Public Assistance and other indigent persons whose resources are insufficient to meet the cost, or the resources of a responsible relative (spouse or parents of minor child) are insufficient to meet the cost of a burial. Mille Lacs County Funeral policy will be followed for all persons who are the Financial Responsibility of Mille Lacs County.

Applications for a County Burial shall be completed and an Authorization given to the Funeral Director to render services prior to those services being given.

If resources available to the deceased or legally responsible relative (parent or spouse) are greater than the maximum amounts provided in this policy, County assistance will be denied. If available resources are less than the maximum amounts provided in this policy, the application will be approved. This guideline does not prohibit persons who are not legally responsible from making a gift contribution or memorial to supplement cremation or burial services.

If the deceased is entitled to death benefits from any source (burial/life insurance policies, VA death benefit, proceeds from bank accounts, stocks or bonds, vehicles, equity in real estate, etc.) these funds will be considered in determining if the deceased or legally responsible relative has sufficient funds to pay burial expenses. Relatives are responsible, by MN Statute, to assist with burial cost. Responsible relatives are surviving spouses and parents of minor descendants.

Any and all available income & resources of the deceased or a legally responsible relative will be asked to be turned over to the County. A claim will be filed against the estate of the deceased for any funds expended by the County. Mille Lacs County

*"To enhance the lives of Mille Lacs County residents by providing services and resources to promote the health and well-being of the community."*

Collections Unit will contact household to repay Mille Lacs County any assets or income of deceased up to the approved total cost. The legally responsible relative (parent or spouse) may request consideration for waiver of collection if actions of the County would cause an undue hardship on the surviving spouse or parent, approval at discretion of Community & Veteran Services Director.

By signing the repayment agreement the decedent's representative assumes the responsibility of acquiring the decedent's assets and reimbursing the county for burial expenses. Repayment must be received within 90 days or a late fee may be applied to the claim, *unless other arrangements have been made with the County.*

To access funds in a deposit account for the deceased party the legally responsible representative can use an Affidavit for Collections of Personal Property along with a certified copy of the death certificate to present to the financial institution in order to gain access to these funds.

County Burials will be reimbursed at the rates approved by Mille Lacs County Board, rates are posted on the Mille Lacs County website.

Immediate Cremation includes: removal from place of death, private identification, transport to crematory, minimum cremation container, minimum urn, cremation, file death certificate.

Immediate Burial includes: removal from place of death, private identification, transport to cemetery, minimum casket, minimum grave liner, file death certificate. Embalming will be paid only when the 72 hour rule cannot be enforced, the cost for embalming shall not exceed \$200.

The County's contribution shall not be available for enhancements such as flowers, a more costly casket, memorial products, etc. This guideline does not prohibit the responsible relative to make separate arrangements with the funeral home.

Transportation charges will be reimbursed at the rate of \$1.25 per loaded mile outside Mille Lacs County and within the state of Minnesota.

Children and oversized caskets and oversized vaults can be negotiated with Mille Lacs County.

County burial costs must not exceed \$4000.

Mille Lacs County provides lots at the County cemetery located in Milo Township.

**PROCEDURES:**

An application for a County burial will be completed by a family member or other interested party prior to receipt of services. Application will be submitted to Financial Assistance Unit.

Eligibility Worker will give verbal approval by phone to be followed up by the County Letter of Authorization to the Funeral Director that the County will pay for the funeral, up to the guidelines for payment established. Funeral Director will need to provide an itemized statement of Goods and Services prior to payment.

Eligibility Worker will refer to Collection Officer for Claim against Estate.