

D. All graves shall be located in an orderly and neat appearing manner within the confines of the burial space involved.

E. The cremains from two persons may be buried in the same grave, one at the head of the grave and one at the foot of the grave.

F. Township sextons will not transport cremains To the cemeteries  
Spreading cremains in the cemeteries is Forbidden.

### **GROUND MAINTENANCE**

A. No grading, leveling, or excavating upon burial space shall be allowed without the permission of the cemetery sexton or the township clerk.

B. All summer decorative plants, flowers and urns must be placed eighteen (18) inches or less directly in front of the marker. All artificial flowers must be in containers.

C. Do not plant trees or shrubs.

D. Do not put fencing, curbing or walls of any kind around graves or lots.

E. Winter decorations, such as blankets, wreathes, etc., will be allowed any place on the grave from November 1<sup>st</sup> of one year, to April 1<sup>st</sup> of the next year. They must be removed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

F. The township board reserves the right to remove or trim any tree, plant or shrub located within the cemetery in the interest of maintaining proper appearance and the use of the cemetery.

G. Mounds which hinder the free use of a lawn mower or other gardening apparatus are prohibited.

H. This is not a perpetual care cemetery. We will mow the grass and trim. The township of Arbela and it's employees are not responsible for any damage to or theft of anything placed on any grave.

### **FORFEITURE OF VACANT CEMETERY LOTS OR BURIAL SPACES**

A. Notice shall be sent by the township clerk by first class mail to the last known address of the last owner of record informing him/her of the expiration of the 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 60 days from the date of mailing of the within notice his desire to retain said burial rights.

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 within 60 days from the date of mailing of said notice.

### **RECORDS**

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

### **VAULT**

All burials shall be within a standard concrete or recycled vault installed or constructed in each burial space before interment.

### **CEMETERY HOURS**

A. The cemeteries shall be open to the general public from the hours of dawn to dusk each day.

B. No person shall be permitted in the township cemeteries at any time other than the foregoing hours, except upon permission of the township board or the sexton of the cemeteries.

## **ARBELA TOWNSHIP CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **ARBELA TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES:**

Pine Grove Cemetery  
Corner of Lewis & Tuscola Roads

Newton/Compau Cemetery  
Millington Road 1/8 mile west of Bray Road

Gunnell Cemetery  
Squires Road east off Belsay Road

### **SEXTONS:**

John Gunnels 810-687-2807  
Deborah Cerasoli 989-871-4415

ARBELA TOWNSHIP CENTER  
8935 Birch Run Rd.  
Millington, MI 48746

Phone: 989-871-2022  
Fax: 989-871-5537

**Office hours:** Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## DEFINITIONS OF CEMETERY LOTS AND BURIAL SPACES

A cemetery lot shall consist of burial spaces sufficient to accommodate from one to four burial spaces.

An adult burial space shall consist of a land area four (4) feet wide and ten (10) feet in length.

Definition of how to handle cremations.

An infant or stillborn burial space shall consist of a land area three (3) feet wide and three and one half (3-1/2) feet in length.

## DEFINITIONS

A. **"Legal Resident"** is someone who has resided in Arbela Township a minimum of six (6) calendar months.

### Exceptions:

1. A child less than six months old, whose mother was a legal resident at the time of birth.
2. An unmarried child living outside the township while attending school, but retaining legal residency in Arbela Township.
3. An unmarried child living outside the township while serving in one of the Armed Services, but retaining legal residency in Arbela township.

- B. **"Grave"** is the land area where one person may be buried.
- C. **"Immediate family"** is a husband, wife, life partner or child.
- D. **"Lot"** is a grouping of two or more graves.
- E. **"Buy a grave"** means to purchase the right to bury an individual in a grave.
- F. **"Sexton fees"** means grave opening and closing costs, and/or the cost of pouring head stone foundations, and/or the cost of setting the headstone.
- G. **"Time of need"** is when a member of the immediate family dies.

## ASSIGNMENT AND SALE OF BURIAL SPACES

- A. All legal residents of Arbela Township are entitled to be assigned one (1) grave, at the time of need. The sexton fees must be paid. If the individual's life partner wishes a grave, it may be assigned at this time of need also.
- B. If a child dies first, the legal resident may be assigned three (3) graves, one each for the parents and one for the child.
- C. Non-residents may purchase a grave at the time of need, which grants a right of burial only and does not convey any other title to the burial space sold and they will be charged the current grave cost plus the sexton's (opening/closing) fee.
- D. A grave may be assigned to any legal resident of the township before their time of need when he/she has reached fifty-five (55) years of age or older. The individual's spouse may also be assigned a grave regardless of her/his age. If a surviving spouse or life partner moves out of the township, that assigned grave will be saved for them. The current sexton fees must be paid at the time of need.

## PURCHASE PRICE AND TRANSFER FEES

- A. Each adult burial space for a non-resident shall cost the sum of \$700.00 (Oct. 2004)
- B. Each burial space for infants or stillbirths for a non-resident shall cost \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. The foregoing charges shall be paid to the township treasurer and shall be deposited in the General Fund under the cemetery budget center.
- D. The township board, by resolution, may ~~periodically alter the foregoing fees to~~ accommodate increased costs and needed reserve funds for cemetery maintenance and acquisition.

## GRAVE OPENING CHARGES

- A. 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 determined from time to time by resolution of the township board, payable to the township.
- B. No burial spaces shall be opened and closed except under the direction and control of the cemetery sexton. This provision shall not apply to proceedings for the removal and re-interment of bodies and remains, which matters are under the supervision of the local health department.

## MARKERS OR MEMORIALS

- A. The sexton must be notified before any footings or markers are placed in the cemeteries.
- B. All footings for markers must be poured by the township sexton including for any monument/urns.
- C. All markers must be placed inside the lot line. Marker should be at head of grave and all markers placed in a straight line (wherever possible in the old part of the cemeteries). Each grave is allowed one footing and one marker only. All other things will be removed.

## INTERMENT REGULATIONS

- A. Only one person may be buried in a burial space except for a mother and infant or two children buried at the same time.
- B. Not less than 36 hours notice shall be given in advance of any time of any funeral to allow for the opening of the burial space.
- C. 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 clerk prior to interment. Where such permit has been lost or destroyed, the township clerk shall be satisfied, from his or her records, that the person to be buried in the burial space is an authorized and appropriate one before any interment is commenced or completed.