

# **City of Forest Park**

## **Indigent Burial Policy**

### **Purpose of Policy:**

- To operate according to the laws of Ohio and to offer assistance to families during an unfortunate time.
- To give clear guidelines on the City of Forest Park's policies and procedures to residents and families in indigent circumstances.
- Set expectations and limitations for individuals who may or may not qualify for an indigent burial in the City of Forest Park

### **Ohio Revised Code Statues:**

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC) §9.15, the City of Forest Park will provide cremation for indigent residents that are deemed by the City to be residents at the time they were deceased. In accordance to ORC § 1713.34 the City may provide the donation of the body to a university or medical facility for any deceased and unclaimed residents by friends or families.

### **Statements of the Policy:**

1. The City will only provide cremation or for the donation of the body to a university or medical facility for unclaimed bodies or indigent residents when such persons are deemed to be the responsibility of the City.
2. The City will only pay the basic expenses associated with the cremation and has contracted with Webster Funeral Homes to conduct said services for its residents.
3. The City of Forest Park does not provide for burials, funeral services, headstones, flowers, food, mourner transportation services, or any other services or materials associated with funeral services of the deceased.
4. The applicant must provide proof of residency as well as proof of indigent circumstances of the applicant as well as the deceased.
5. The City reserves the right to recover costs from any life insurance, Social Security benefits, monetary gains from estate sales, and any available funds at the time of death and in the future.

### **Determination of Indigency:**

In making a determination of the indigency of the deceased person, the City of Forest Park will consider the following elements:

1. The ready availability of real or personal property of the decedent, which if sold, would provide sufficient funds for the person's burial.

2. Any employment death benefits, pensions, annuities, Social Security benefits, unemployment compensation, life insurance proceeds made payable to decedent's estate, cash on hand or other financial resources available to decedent.
3. Inheritance, number and ages of dependents, outstanding debts, obligations, and liabilities.
4. Any relevant facts concerning the financial means of the decedent.

When determining the indigency status of the person claiming the deceased's body, the City of Forest Park will consider ORC 9.15(c) which defines "*indigent person*" as someone whose gross income does not exceed 150% of the federal poverty line for a family size equal to the size of the person's family. Gross income includes all household members, minus the wages or salaries earned by dependent minors under 18 years of age.

Gross income is based upon all pre-tax wages and earnings from employment, interest, annuities, pensions, Social Security benefits, retirement, employment disability, public assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), alimony, child support, unemployment benefits, Workers' Compensation, and any other indirect income. It does not include noncash benefits, i.e. food stamps and housing subsidies, or capital gains and losses.

### **Determination of Residency:**

The City recognize there is no statutory definition of residency, therefore, the City of Forest Park will consider a person to be a resident of the City, if the person at the time of death, had a physical presence in the City, coupled with the choice and intent to make the City the place of the person's permanent residence. Acceptable forms of proof are as follows:

- Municipal income tax account in good standing.
- Purchase of real property located in the City.
- A driver's license, state identification, or valid passport reflecting a Forest Park address.
- A utility bill reflecting a Forest Park address.

To establish residency in Forest Park, the claimant must show proof that they resided in Forest Park for a minimum of 12 months immediately preceding the date of death.

### **Responsibility of the Applicant:**

- (1.) Contact the City of Forest Park to obtain the policy and application.
- (2.) Read this policy in its entirety and understand The City of Forest park only offers basic cremation services and will only pay the contracted vendor as outlined in this policy.
- (3.) Submit a completed, signed, and notarized application to the City.
- (4.) Provide decedent's proof of residency to the City of Forest Park at the time of death.
- (5.) Provide full disclosure of any assets the decedent may have including unclaimed benefits, cash and life insurance policies.
- (6.) The application must be filled out and approved before any services take place. The applicant will be notified within 5 days after the City receives your application. **The City of Forest Park does not reimburse for the cost of a cremation done prior to the approval of the application.**

## Restrictions:

The following items will result in rejection of your application.

- (1.) The decedent is deemed not to be a resident of Forest Park
- (2.) The deceased or responsible family member has sufficient assets for the cost of a funeral or cremation.
- (3.) The applicant fails to provide adequate information to support the need for an indigent burial approval.

## Approved Service Providers:

Webster Funeral Home Phone: (513) 942-3293

3080 Homeward Way

Fairfield, OH, 45014

Avance Funeral Home Phone (513) 829-6257

4976 Winton Road

Fairfield, OH 45014

Science Care, Inc. (after medical review on a case-by-case basis) Phone: (800) 417-3747

Headquartered at:

2001 West Pinnacle Peak, Ste. 175

Phoenix, AZ 85027-1285