

RUSSIAN RIVER CEMETERY DISTRICT

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Russian River Cemetery District reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to make changes, additions to, or deletions from these Rules at any time. Any such change shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the Russian River Cemetery District without regard to whether an agency, business or person has received notice of such change.

A. CEMETERY HOURS

1. Office: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday - Friday
2. Gate: April 1st – September 30th 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
October 1st – March 31st 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Vehicles are not allowed in the Cemetery after the gate closes.

B. ENDOWMENT CARE

1. The Russian River Cemetery is operated as an endowment care cemetery in conformity with the California Health & Safety Code. The income from the fund is used only for the care and maintenance of the Cemetery. These funds do not cover the privately purchased memorial monuments and/or markers which are owned and remained controlled by the purchaser.

2. Contributions to the Endowment Care Fund are mandatory pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 9065. Contributions are considered made for “charitable and eleemosynary purposes” (Health & Safety Code section 8736) and, as such, are non-refundable in all circumstances.

3. Contributions to the Endowment Care Fund must be made before any interment will be conducted, even if interment rights and other fees were paid previously.

C. BURIALS

1. The Cemetery will accommodate burials 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday thru Friday. (Summer months 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.)

2. The Cemetery will not accommodate burials on weekends or holidays. The observed holidays for the Russian River Cemetery are:

- a. New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

3. Double-depth burials are permitted only in areas where double-depth vaults are already installed.

4. Burials in each full-sized plot are limited to one single casket burial and up to three (3) cremated remains, or four (4) cremated remains. Double-depth plots shall be limited to two (2) casket burials and up to two (2) cremated remains. Cremains (ash) plots are limited to two (2) cremated remains. Full size plots are allowed to have four headstones/markers. Cremains (ash) plots are limited to one stone. Co-mingled ashes (ashes in the same urn) in the same hole = one (1).

D. PETS

1. Pets are allowed in the Cemetery and must remain on a leash at all times.
2. The Cemetery is prohibited by law from interring pets in the Cemetery.

E. DECORATIONS & MEMORIALS

1. All items must be placed within the headstone area.
2. Only flowers, flags and up to two solar or battery-powered lights (no glass) are allowed on the lawn graves. These items must be kept in flower cans.
3. In the gravel graves two solar or battery-operated lights (no glass) are permitted on graves. The lights must be placed in the headstone/marker/monument area.
4. No glass, breakable items, commemorative candles or other burning materials are allowed.
5. No fences, stones, jewels, or other outlining of the grave or encroachment on other graves is allowed.
6. Decorations and memorials (other than allowed grave markers) will not be allowed without the approval of the District.
7. Benches are allowed on gravel graves. Benches may not exceed the grave space and must be made out of granite, metal or stone. NO wood or plastic.
8. Any items or grave decorations placed on graves that do not comply with these rules will be removed by the Cemetery.
9. Fertilizers and chemical sprays are only permitted by cemetery groundskeepers.
10. The District shall have the authority to remove all floral designs, flowers, trees, shrubs, monuments or any other item when and if it becomes unsightly, detrimental, diseased, dangerous or impeding the maintenance of the Cemetery. The District shall not be liable for floral pieces, baskets, or frames to which such floral pieces are attached. The District shall not be liable for lost, misplaced, or broken flower vases or containers. The District reserves the right to regulate the materials and methods of decorating graves in order to maintain design harmony consistent with the purpose to which the Cemetery is dedicated. No flowers, bushes, trees, or shrubs may be planted anywhere within the Cemetery without the express written consent of the Cemetery Manager.
11. No cluttering. Cemetery staff need to be able to move large equipment.
12. Temporary grave markers will be removed after 90 days.
13. No ornamental decorations of any kind, including flowers, are allowed on or around the niche columbarium in Block G-G.

Flower cans are available to purchase in the Cemetery Office

F. GRAVE CLEAN UP SCHEDULE

Periodically the Cemetery staff will do a thorough clean-up of all the graves throughout the Cemetery. The clean-up will start the weeks listed below:

- Christmas - Last week in January**
- Spring clean - First week in March**
- Easter – Two weeks following Easter Sunday**
- Summer clean – Second week in September**
- Halloween & Dia de los Muertos – Second week in November**
- Thanksgiving – Two weeks following Thanksgiving**

G. MONUMENTS AND MARKERS

1. The Russian River Cemetery District encourages the placement of such monuments and markers which are consistent with the District's Markers and Monuments Policy. In order to minimize potential damage to markers, the District regulates the materials and sizes of markers, as well as where specific types of markers can be placed in the Cemetery. A copy of the District's Markers and Monuments Policy is available in the Cemetery office.

2. Grave markers and monuments are owned and controlled by the purchaser and/or his or her heirs or successor owners. The District reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to regulate marker materials, sizes, placement, acceptable content and other elements of markers and monuments. However, the District is not responsible for damaged or deteriorating monuments or markers, and owners are expected to maintain monuments and markers so that they do not present a safety hazard to Cemetery visitors or employees.

3. The Russian River Cemetery is maintained with power equipment, and purchasers should keep this in mind when selecting monuments or markers. The District shall take reasonable precaution to protect plots, monuments, markers, copings, enclosures, and all plot improvements from loss or damage, but it disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control, particularly from damage caused by the elements, acts of God, acts of terrorism, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasions, insurrection, riots, or the actions of any military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral.

4. Every effort is made to mow and trim the Russian River Cemetery as needed. This often means mowing in less than desirable weather. Wet grass clumps will adhere to markers. Please be aware that this can and does happen, especially during Winter weather. Grass on markers does not imply neglect, but rather a dedication to maintaining the Cemetery as regularly as possible.

5. Any person or company installing markers or monuments or otherwise providing services in the Russian River Cemetery must first file with the District valid Certificates of Insurance proving valid comprehensive liability insurance and worker's compensation insurance coverage. Persons or companies engaged in work on Cemetery ground will be held responsible for any damage to grounds or property.

H. INTERMENTS

1. All grave spaces are for interment of human remains only and subject to all current Cemetery rules and regulations.
2. No interments of any type of body other than human will be permitted.
3. No interments will be made without a County issued interment permit.
4. The authorized interment right owner must sign interment orders at least 24 hours prior to interment.
5. Casket interments will be made in a vault or outer container constructed of concrete or metal.
6. Cremains shall be placed in a non-biodegradable container. Urn vaults are optional and available for purchase in the Cemetery office.
7. Scattering of cremains on the Russian River Cemetery or other public property is prohibited.
8. Graves and niches shall only be opened and closed by Cemetery staff.

I. DISINTERMENTS

1. Disinterment and removal of bodies from graves must be done in accordance with Health & Safety Code sections 7500- 7528. Remains may be disinterred with the consent of the cemetery management and family. A disinterment permit is required to remove any remains from the Cemetery. Disinterment may be made Monday through Friday 10:00 am. – 3:00 pm, except on Holidays.
2. Cemetery staff will conduct all disinterments. However, staff will not open caskets. Any opening of a casket must be handled by and under the supervision of a funeral director or coroner.

J. NO SALES, TRANSFERS OR ASSIGNMENTS

1. All interments in the Russian River Cemetery must qualify under the terms of Health & Safety code sections 9060 and 9061. Therefore, to ensure compliance with law, no interment right shall be sold or transferred to any third person or entity. Transfers/ assignments to qualifying family members may be permitted, provided that such transfer/assignment is first recorded in the books of the Cemetery and a transfer fee has been paid. No claim of ownership of an interment right not reflected in the records of the Cemetery will be recognized.
2. Interment rights may only be sold back to the Russian River Cemetery District. The purchase price shall be the same amount as the original price paid by the owner.
3. Endowment care contributions and administration fees are not refundable at any time.

K. PRICE LIST

1. The District's current price list is available in the Cemetery office.