



## **POLICIES FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CEMETERIES**

The Charter Township of Texas Cemeteries is Hope Cemetery on South 8<sup>th</sup> Street, between West Q Avenue and West R Avenue, and Virgo Cemetery at the corner of West RS Avenue and VanKal Road. Cemeteries are owned and operated by the Charter Township of Texas with the policies established and enforced by Township Board Members.

In the interest of making the cemeteries, a quiet beautiful resting-place for departed loved ones; the Township Board Members have established the following policies.

### **BURIAL SPACE ASSIGNMENT**

Sales of all spaces shall be made through the Township Clerk's office, which grants a right of burial only and does not convey any other title to the lot or burial space sold. Each burial site is designed for one (1) burial; however, exceptions may be made for infants or cremains.

Township residents on an as needed basis may purchase a burial space. An adjoining burial space may be purchased for the spouse at this time, at a fee set by the Township Board.

Township residents for (10) years or more may purchase pre-needed spaces at age 62 or older, or in the case of terminal illness.

Burial spaces can be sold to non-residents if at some time they have been a resident of Texas Township for a period of not less than 10 years **AND** have members of the immediate family buried at the cemetery. Non-residents, who qualify for burial, may purchase (2) two spaces at the non-resident fee established by the Township board.

Spaces that were assigned free of charge will revert to the township if not used at the death of the person/persons to whom they are assigned.

Assigned spaces cannot be sold or given away but must be signed back to the township for reassignment. Persons signing spaces back to the township may request spaces be assigned to a specific individual/individuals who would qualify for assignment of a burial space.

Purchased spaces cannot be sold or given away, but must be sold back to the township at the purchase price. Persons selling spaces back to the Township may request spaces are sold to specific individuals who would qualify for sales of burial space at the current selling price.

### **MEMORIALS**

Markers or memorials must be of stone or other equally durable composition. Suitable solid foundations are provided by the Township and are charged to the appropriate Monument Company. No other structures will be permitted.

Markers will be placed at the head of the burial site with no more than one marker per burial site. The Township Clerk may make an exception when an infant is buried with relatives.

Maintenance of markers is the responsibility of the family of the deceased, however, should any monument become unsightly, dilapidated, or a safety hazard to visitors, the township shall have the right to correct the condition or to remove the same.

Monument companies shall verify burial sites with the Township Clerk's office prior to ordering the placement of a foundation.

As monuments are designed for the express purpose of commemorating the burial site of individuals, the township prohibits advertising of any description on said markers.

### **DECORATIONS & PLANTING**

The township will be responsible for the placement of all trees and shrubs and no individual plantings of trees, or shrubs shall be permitted. There shall be no rose bushes planted. Regarding plantings made prior to the adoption of this policy: Families with burial sites on which plantings have been made prior to the adoption of this policy are encouraged to keep the trees and shrubs trimmed. The township reserves the right to remove or trim any tree, plant, or shrub located with the cemetery in the interest of maintaining proper appearance and full use of the cemetery.

No edging, stones, coping, fence, railing or hedge to define the lot or grave space shall be permitted. No structures shall be permitted.

Perennial flowers may be planted in urns or vases on either side of the memorial. Annual flowers should be planted within 12" of the memorial and not extend past lot boundaries in full bloom. Cut flowers shall be allowed the same as annual flowers. No glass containers are permitted.

Artificial flowers are to be placed on the sides or in front of memorials the same as regular flowers.

Summer lot decorations are permitted from May 1 through September 30. Winter lot decorations are permitted from November 1 through March 31 of the following year. Decorations remaining beyond the time permitted may be removed and destroyed by the Township.

A container is provided at Hope Cemetery April through October for the disposal of cemetery refuse. Dumping on grounds adjoining the cemetery is prohibited.

The above policies are necessary to maintain the general appearance and beauty of the cemeteries for township residents.