



Allerdale Borough Council

Bereavement Services Rules and Regulations

Allerdale Borough Council's cemeteries are operated in accordance with the following rules and regulations. These also impose certain restrictions and requirements on users of the cemeteries which we expect users to observe. If you need any help interpreting the rules and regulations, please do not hesitate to contact staff at the bereavement services office on 01900 702620 or email bereavement.services@allerdale.gov.uk

Grave Right / Deed

Please keep the grave deed safe as it is evidence of your ownership of the right. You have purchased a right of burial, which ensures that any further burial must be of the grave owner, or a burial authorised by the owner. **It is important to note that you have bought a 'right', and not the land, which still remains in the ownership of Allerdale Borough Council.**

All new graves are purchased for a period of 50 years unless otherwise stated on the deed.

Transfer of deed Ownership

Where the current grave owner is still alive and wishes to transfer ownership to another person a Deed of Assignment must be properly completed and returned to the bereavement services office. A Deed of Assignment is available upon request from the bereavement services office.

Transfer of Ownership of a grave may take place where the registered grave owner is deceased by submitting a completed statutory declaration form, available from the bereavement services office. This form must be signed by a solicitor or a commissioner of oaths then returned with the appropriate fee to the bereavement services office where a new deed will be issued with the amended information.

Graves – General Information

No fences, enclosures, trenches, kerb surrounds or border stones will be permitted on any grave space in any section designated as a lawned area.

The council has a right to remove from any grave any items that may interfere with the grounds maintenance of that area after serving notice to the registered owner. Any items seen to be causing an immediate hazard or danger will be removed immediately without notice.

The council has the right to remove and dispose of any floral tributes, flowers, plants etc. that have withered or died or have become unsightly on any grave. Bulbs may be planted around the headstone area of the grave.

Trees and shrubs are not allowed on graves within designated lawned areas.

Native trees are encouraged within meadow burial areas, please ring the Bereavement Services office for details.

Holly Wreaths / Artificial Wreaths can be placed on any graves. The Burial Authority reserve the right to remove these wreaths if they cause damage to the turf / grass.

After burial all graves will be tidied up and left in an acceptable condition by the cemetery staff. The levelling of graves during the period of settlement will be carried out by the cemetery staff on a regular basis for a period of 6 months after the burial.

Winter Conditions

Please do not use glass vases on graves, these freeze and split with the glass shards becoming a safety hazard. We only treat frozen roads and paths to imminent funerals. As anniversaries occur every day of the year, we never close the cemeteries even though snow and ice exist please exercise extreme care during visits throughout the winter months.

Dogs in Cemeteries

Dogs are allowed in cemeteries but must be kept on a lead at all times. Owners are responsible for cleaning up any fouling caused by their dog(s). Cemeteries are included in the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 and under this act owners who fail to clean up after their dogs can be prosecuted. In addition, the council employ environmental wardens to enforce the Act.

The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977

Attention is drawn to the above act and any amendments thereto.

This order provides that no person shall:-

- Wilfully create any disturbance or commit any nuisance in a cemetery
- Wilfully interfere with any burial taking place
- Wilfully interfere with any grave or vault, any tombstone or other such memorial, or any flowers or plants on any such matter
- Play any sport or game

The order provides that every person who contravenes any prohibition specified above together with any prohibition specified in Article 19 of the order shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine.

Fees and Charges

The fees and charges payable to the Council in respect of grave spaces, monuments, inscriptions and other matters in connection with the Cemeteries are approved by the Council. Copies of such fees and charges are available on request from the bereavement services office.

Memorials

No memorial will be permitted on any grave without the consent of the bereavement services office.

The council reserve the right to remove any headstone or other memorial erected without the approval of the council.

Please note as the owner of a grave right, you are responsible for the maintenance and safety of any memorial on the grave. If it becomes loose, leans or otherwise appears unsafe, please contact a memorial mason. Allerdale Borough Council has a Memorial Masons Registration Scheme which is available from the bereavement services section. Only approved monumental masons shown on the list are allowed to carry out work in the cemeteries.

All new memorials will be erected in accordance to the National Association of Monumental Masons code of practice and recommended fixing methods.

The council carry out regular checks on all memorials and will make safe any memorial found to be in a dangerous condition. It is then the responsibility of the grave owner to arrange for the appropriate work to be carried out by an approved stone mason.

Vandalism is rare, but when it occurs it is very distressing. The council are not responsible for vandalism damage. Your memorial mason can offer you insurance against this.