



CEMETERY GLOSSARY



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- Arrangement Conference:** A meeting between funeral and /or cemetery service personnel and the client family for the discussion of funeral and /or cemetery arrangements .
- At-need:** Funeral or cemetery arrangements made at the time of death .
- Burial Permit:** A legal paper issued by the local government authorizing disposition of human remains .
- Burial / Transit Permit:** A legal document issued by a governmental agency authorizing transportation and /or disposition of human remains .
- Carapace:** Technical name for the lid or any top seal of an outer burial container .
- Cemetery:** An area of ground set aside and dedicated for the final disposition of decedents .
- Cemetery Arrangements:** The cemetery service details , including financial arrangements .
- Cenotaphs:** Memorialization provided for those interred elsewhere . Also applicable when remains are unrecoverable .
- Columbarium:** A structure , room or space in a building or structure used for the entombment of cremated human remains .
- Companion Burial:** Companion burial permits two interments side by side .
- Concrete Box:** An outer enclosure constructed of concrete . The box is usually unpainted , very simple , and uses no type of sealing compound or mechanism usually found in vaults .
- Crypt:** A chamber of a mausoleum of sufficient size generally used to contain the casketed remains of a deceased person .
- Crypt Front:** Facing of a mausoleum space (may be bronze , marble , or concrete) that displays name of decedent entombed therein and date of birth / death .
- Disinter (Exhumation):** To remove human remains from the place of interment .
- Endowment Care:** Refers to funds set aside by law that are used to cover the costs associated with the future care and maintenance of the cemetery . Also referred to as perpetual care .
- Entombment:** The act of placing casketed or cremated remains in a mausoleum crypt . This would include the removal of the crypt front , sealing of the crypt and replacement of the crypt front .
- Grave:** Space or plot of land where human remains are interred .
- Graveside Service:** Funeral service conducted at the cemetery ; may or may not be a continuation of previous church , chapel or memorial service ; may or may not be conducted at the actual site of interment , but rather at a centralized location within the cemetery (mausoleum , gazebo , etc .) .
- Immediate Disposition:** Disposition of human remains that is devoid of funeral rites at the time of disposition also known as immediate burial or direct cremation .
- Interment:** The act of burying casketed or cremated remains in the ground . This includes collective acts required to prepare the interment site , place the remains in the grave or burial unit , close the grave and correct the appearance of disturbed areas .
- Inurnment:** The act of removing the niche front or cover , placing the urn containing the cremated remains into the niche space and replacing the niche front or cover .
- Lawn Crypt:** A lawn crypt is a pre-installed burial chamber . It is like traditional ground burial because the chamber is located underground
- Lot:** Cemetery term specifying an area of a cemetery ; generally a lot consists of several spaces and a section consists of several lots .

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Markers: Permanent identification pieces sold to memorialize or mark the grave of a deceased person. Markers can be made of bronze or granite. They are usually installed level with the ground on a granite base foundation. Also sold for identification and referred to as markers are: upright monuments, headstones, vases, bronze letters, memorial benches, etc.

Mausoleum Crypt: A chamber of sufficient size to entomb the casketed remains of one or more deceased persons. The mausoleum crypt is normally fronted by marble or granite.

Mausoleum (Indoor): Building designed and constructed to provide crypt spaces within an enclosed structure that is usually heated and air conditioned. These buildings often provide support facilities such as offices, storage, restrooms and maintenance areas. If the mausoleum also contains a chapel it may be referred to as a chapel mausoleum. These buildings can be several stories high, thereby making more efficient use of limited ground space.

Mausoleum Niche: A small space in a mausoleum for the inurnment of cremated remains.

Mausoleum (Garden): Building designed and constructed to provide crypt space within an open-air structure with or without covered patios, landscaping, art work and support facilities. These buildings are generally three to eight crypts high.

Memorial: Generic cemetery term usually associated with an item that recognizes a life lived. Examples include: monument, marker, niche plate, urn garden plaque, crypt plate, cenotaph, marker bench and others.

Monument: An upright structure of stone or metal commemorating the life, deeds, or career of a deceased person.

Niche: A space within an above ground structure in which cremated remains are placed.

Niche Bank: Cemetery term describing a wall in a columbarium of spaces for inurnment of cremated remains.

Outer Burial Container: A fully enclosed container used as an outer enclosure for the burial casket or urn. This can include vaults and concrete liners.

Personal Planning Guide: A booklet of forms to be completed by a family before a death occurs.

Preneed: Sales, arrangements, decisions made before a death occurs.

Private Estate: A small section of a cemetery, usually bordered by gates, shrubbery, or other dividers that allow for ground burial of several members of the same family.

Scattering Gardens: A designated area in a cemetery used for scattering cremains.

Section: A group of spaces, also referred to as, a garden or block.

Single Burial: Permits one interment

Urn Vault: An outer burial container for cremated remains.

Vault: A type of outer burial container manufactured in a variety of materials.

Veterans Administration (VA): The federal agency that administers benefits for those who served in the U.S. armed forces.