



People's Memorial
A s s o c i a t i o n
Funeral Advocacy & Education since 1939

Cremation Financial Assistance Guidelines

The Cremation Assistance Fund was established to help families pay for simple and dignified cremation only to the extent that there are funds available in the designated account with People's Memorial Association (PMA). Once approved, cremation is performed by one of the PMA contracted funeral homes. The funeral home receives full payment for PMA Plan 1: Direct Burial plus any taxes and fees and is not responsible for providing any additional discounted services to the family.

Before applying for financial assistance, please review these guidelines to be sure the case will qualify:

- ✓ Funds are provided for assistance with cremation in the state of Washington only. PMA is not able to provide funds for either burial of cremated remains or full-body burial.
- ✓ Should the family request additional products or services beyond direct cremation and certified copies of the death certificate, all funding assistance will be disallowed.
- ✓ The cremation arrangements must be handled by a funeral home contracted with PMA.
- ✓ The decedent must become a member of PMA. **The next of kin (responsible party) is expected to pay the \$50 membership fee directly to PMA before the funeral home moves forward with cremation.**
- ✓ The next of kin (responsible party) must complete the PMA Cremation Financial Assistance application which includes information regarding the financial situation of both the decedent and the next of kin or other responsible party. If no next of kin can be identified, then the "most responsible party" shall complete the financial application to the best of their knowledge. **If no next of kin or responsible party claims the body of the decedent, the case shall be referred to the local county indigent cremation program** in accordance with RCW 36.39.030.
- ✓ A professional who is familiar with the family's situation must submit a letter to PMA stating their relationship to the family or decedent and affirming they believe

the decedent nor their next of kin have sufficient financial resources to pay for simple cremation without putting at risk the basic necessities of food and shelter. A professional in this situation would be defined as a healthcare provider, social worker, religious leader, landlord, guardian, or other person who is **not related** to the decedent and has had sufficient dealings with the family or decedent to be familiar with their situation.

If you believe the case will qualify, submit the completed three-page application and the professional letter to PMA by email info@peoplesmemorial.org or by fax 206-529-3801.

Once the completed three-page application and the professional letter are received, the PMA program administrator will review the application packet. A determination will be based upon current DSHS poverty standards as to whether or not they believe the situation warrants financial support. Situational issues may be taken into account.

If the application is approved, the Responsible Party agrees to pay:

- a minimum of 25% of the PMA Plan 1: Direct Cremation directly to the funeral home;
- any related taxes and fees directly to the funeral home;
- \$20 per certified copy of the death certificate directly to the funeral home; and
- the \$50 PMA membership fee if the decedent is not already a member (due to PMA at the time of approval and before the funeral home performs cremation).

If the application is approved, PMA agrees to pay:

- a maximum of 75% of the PMA Plan 1: Direct Cremation directly to the funeral home once a statement of goods and services is submitted by the funeral home and approved by the PMA program administrator.
- No additional expenses will be covered.

For a list of the PMA contracted funeral homes and current member prices, visit www.peoplesmemorial.org or call the office at 206-325-0489.

People's Memorial Association shall not discriminate due to race, nationality, religion, gender, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or marital status of the decedent or survivors. People's Memorial Association reserves the right to deny funding based upon any reason other than that the decedent or next of kin are members of one of the protected classes mentioned above.

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