

# Washington Colony Cemetery District

## Rules & Regulations

WCCD and The Board of Trustees reserves the right to modify these rules and regulations as necessary.

The manager is hereby empowered to enforce all rules and regulations and to exclude from the property of the cemetery any persons violating these rules. The manager and WCCD employees at all times have the supervision and control of all persons in the cemetery, including the conduct of funerals, traffic, plot owners and visitors.

### General Rules

- No person(s) visiting WCCD shall engage in unseemly conduct or engage in activities deemed detrimental to or inappropriate within the cemetery
- The possession or consumption of drugs or alcoholic beverages is strictly forbidden. Violators will be reported to law enforcement and asked to leave
- No barbeques, grills, tables, cooking or meal gatherings are allowed on cemetery grounds.
- No pop-up tents, E-Z Ups, Stationary umbrellas or shade structures of any kind are allowed
- No domestic animals other than service dogs are allowed on cemetery grounds
- No amplified music
- Children under the age of 18 need to be accompanied by an adult.
- Automobiles will not exceed 10 mph
- No Driving on lawns or headstones
  
- No sports or recreational activities
  
- Do not leave any trash on gravesites or surrounding areas

### Visitation

**The WCCD is open for public visitation every day from sun up to sun down** per California Health and Safety Code § 8115. These visitation hours help ensure the safety of visitors and WCCD property. Anyone on said grounds, except cemetery personnel, before or after daylight hours can be considered in trespass violation and may be asked to leave and reported to the Fresno County Sheriffs Department. The drive-in gate on Sumner is open daily but is subject to closure at any time due to vandalism, theft, or safety concerns.

### Maintenance & Watering

Clean up, mowing, edging, blowing and landscaping are done on an ongoing and daily basis in coordination with burials and irrigation schedules. Mowing may occur in less than desirable weather conditions which may result in wet grass clumps that will adhere to markers. Please be aware that this can and does happen and does not imply neglect, but rather a dedication to maintaining the cemetery as regularly as possible. Sprinklers are set on timers and ran at times that management deems necessary. All efforts are made to make visiting loved ones possible, but irrigation can sometimes affect that. Please note that water will not be shut off to accommodate visitors unless it is for a previously scheduled burial.

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### Flowers & Decorations

WCCD 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. Flowers placed on graves must be placed in the provided vases in marker settings. For vases that are stuck or need to be replaced, please see the office. Any flowers placed outside of these vases will be discarded. There is an exception for gravestones that do not have vases; those families may place 1 non-breakable flat bottom vase on the gravestone. All other decorations must be placed within the headstone area and must not encroach on the surrounding graves. At no time will flowers or other decorations be allowed on the length of the grave. The planting of any trees, shrubs, or flowers is strictly prohibited. No items may be affixed to headstones, benches or the cement surrounding them whether permanent or temporary. No items whether permanent or temporary may be affixed to any cemetery property( buildings, trees, bushes, fencing, etc). No stickers or taped items are allowed on niche plates or framing. Funeral flowers will be allowed to stay at gravesites for 5 days following the service. Christmas trees no taller than 5 feet (including the stand) will be allowed from Thanksgiving until the cleanup in January and **must be removed by the family**. Please make sure trees can withstand rain and wind. Any trees that are prohibited or are consistent issues (falling over) will be discarded. All other rules will remain in place during the Christmas season.

#### **Items listed below are strictly prohibited from grave sites:**

- Any glass, ceramic, tile, or breakable items (picture frames, candles, globes, etc)
- Candles or any other flammable items
- Fencing, rocks/gravel, jewels, mulch, garland, sand, shells, flowers, decorative picks/ stakes, etc. surrounding the headstone
- Alcohol, food or drinks
- Items over 18 inches tall
- Mylar or other balloons (California Penal Code 653.1 (a))
- Excessive clutter
- More than 4 solar lights per grave

Cemetery personnel have the authority to remove and discard flowers or decorations as they become unsightly, excessive or interfere with maintenance and/or the normal operations of WCCD. All decorations will be regularly discarded according to the schedule which is available in the office. WCCD will not be responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged property.

### Markers & Bench Settings

All markers must be set in concrete by cemetery employees and will face the east. Each marker setting will contain two(2) vases set to the bottom(east) of the marker. **All markers must be flat and 12 inches wide x 24 inches long and 3 inches thick or 10 inches wide x 16 inches long and 3 inches thick with a smooth edge and side. No beveled edges, raised pictures/ decorations, or standing stones allowed. All markers must be made of granite, marble or bronze.**

**Marker setting fees must be paid before delivery and setting.** Markers delivered before the setting fee has been paid will be rejected and additional costs may accrue for the family.

**Markers will be set in the order received.** Burials and maintenance have priority over the setting of markers. The time it takes to set a marker also depends on the weather, work schedule, number of markers to be set, and the time of the year. **There is no guarantee markers will be set by a specific time. Do not ask for exceptions, none will be made.** The

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witnessing of the marker setting is not allowed. Families who wish to keep the temporary marker must notify the office before the delivery of the permanent marker.

Resetting of old markers will be done at the request of authorized family members and after the setting fee has been paid.

Benches must be uniform to WCCD size specifications and must be black or gray granite. Benches must be set in cement, and the setting fee must be paid in advance of bench delivery. Installation of benches must be coordinated with cemetery management. WCCD shall determine where the placement of the bench will be in coordination with the burial location. Benches will only be set at curbs or along fence lines.

WCCD is maintained with power equipment, and purchasers should keep this in mind when selecting markers or benches. We strongly discourage the placement of porcelain pictures and laser engraved/etched markers as they are easily damaged. WCCD will take all reasonable precautions to protect markers/benches, however it is not responsible for damaged or deteriorating markers/benches or the cement frames surrounding them. Broken cement frames or markers/benches will be removed when they pose a safety hazard. Markers/benches are the property of each family and WCCD is not responsible for the care and upkeep. Please be aware when choosing a stone type that water spots or mineral deposits may appear from sprinklers.

### **Burials**

Burial times must be coordinated between cemetery management and funeral home personnel. All Saturday burials will be charged an extra fee. No burials or services will be allowed on Sundays or federal holidays. 72 hour advance notice must be given to management in advance of a service. **All burial services have a one-hour time limit.**

All fees must be paid in full 72 hours in advance of service. No burial shall be permitted without a valid permit from the proper authorities. Burial permits are the responsibility of the family and/or funeral home. Funeral services may be cancelled by the manager at any time due to circumstances beyond the control of the district. Cancellations and re-scheduling by the family for any graves already dug will incur an additional opening and closing fee. At no time will the opening of a casket be permitted on cemetery grounds. You are purchasing the right to use the plot indefinitely, not ownership of the property.

**POSSESSION OR CONSUMPTION OF ANY DRUGS OR ALCOHOL BY ANY ATTENDEE AT A SERVICE WILL RESULT IN THE IMMEDIATE CANCELLATION OF BURIAL SERVICES.**

**Caskets will not be lowered and cremains will not be interred until services have concluded and all attendees have left.** Only cemetery personnel and funeral home representatives are allowed at the grave site for the completion of the burial.

**No leaning, standing, or sitting on the lowering equipment or casket.** This is highly dangerous and can cause harm to equipment as well as individuals. Any person(s) doing this may be held liable for any damages and issues that may arise from misuse.

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A \$75 service charge will be added to the amount of any returned checks, if necessary, legal action will be initiated and pursued to the fullest extent as prescribed by law, CA Civil Code Chapter 522, Section 1719.

### Pre-Need Contracts

The WCCD preneed sales program consists of the following 2 options:

- A. Burial Space and Endowment only
- B. Complete Preneed. Burial Space, Endowment(s), Opening & Closing(s), Vault, Temporary Marker(s), Handling fee, Marker setting fee(s) and taxes.

Full down payment (endowment fee) is required to open a preneed contract. **Endowment fees, 15% service fees and contract fees are non-refundable.** 15% service fee is waived if contract is paid in full at the opening of the contract. Plots may be put on hold (reserved) for 90 days only. After 90 days, plots on hold will be put back on sale to the general public. **The cemetery will not call or send reminders.**

All plots wishing to be sold back to WCCD will be purchased by the district at the original purchase price or \$200, whichever is more. Any purchases or transfers between family or other individuals is strictly prohibited and will not be honored unless the transfer is done through the cemetery office and the proper paperwork has been filed and fees have been paid. Claim of ownership of an interment right not reflected in the records of WCCD will be recognized. The only person authorized to sell or transfer burial rights is the original purchaser, or, if the original purchaser is deceased, one of the following, in order named: (1) surviving spouse (2) surviving children (3) surviving parents (4) surviving siblings

### Disinterment

Disinterment and removal of bodies from graves must be done in accordance with Health & Safety Code sections 7500-7528. No Disinterment will be allowed without the consent of cemetery management and a written consent from the person authorizing the disinterment or by order of the court when proper receipt of the remains must be given. A disinterment permit is required to remove any remains from the cemetery. Only employees of the cemetery district under direct supervision from management or other authorized persons will be present for the disinterment process. Remains disinterred from another cemetery and re-interred at WCCD will be encased in a new casket before delivery to the district.

### Liability

The district, its Board of Trustees, and all individual members of said board, the General Manager and all other personnel employed by the district will not be responsible for injury or damage suffered by any persons, including children, in the use of the cemetery grounds or its facilities. Any person using the roadways, streets, paths or facilities in the cemetery will do so at their own risk.