

**KINROSS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
CEMETERY ORDINANCE
ORDINANCE NO. 1.125**

Adopted: July 1, 2002
Effective Date: August 19, 2002

An Ordinance to protect the public health, safety and general welfare by establishing regulations relating to the operation, control, and management of cemeteries owned by the Charter Township of Kinross, Chippewa County, Michigan, to provide penalties for the violation of said ordinance, and to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith.

The Charter Township of Kinross, County of Chippewa, Michigan hereby ordains:

**ARTICLE 1:
SHORT TITLE**

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Kinross Charter Township Cemetery Ordinance.

**ARTICLE 2:
DEFINITIONS**

“Administrator” The person who administers the cemetery records and cemetery policy as may be appointed by the Kinross Charter Township Clerk.

"Burial Spaces or Plots" shall mean the following:

“Adult Burial Space or Plot” shall consist of a land area four and one-half (4 ½) feet wide and nine (9) feet in length in the old east section and four (4) feet wide by ten (10) feet in length in the new west section. Two (2) cremations are allowed per adult space.

“Infant Burial Space or Plot” shall mean an infant under two (2) years of age or stillborn and shall consist of a minimum land area four (4) by four and one half (4 ½) feet in areas set aside specifically for such burial or on a purchased site.

“Cemetery Committee” shall mean a Committee appointed by the Kinross Charter Township Board, of which, members shall be governed as defined by the Kinross Charter Township Cemetery Committee By-laws.

“Cemetery Fee Schedule Resolution” shall mean a resolution setting fees, charges and deposits associated with this ordinance.

“Cemetery Office” The office for cemetery records and administration. The Cemetery Office is located in the Township Clerk’s Office at the Kinross Charter Township Hall.

“Permit” A document given to the purchaser as proof of burial plot(s) or lot rights.

“Interment” The burial of the remains of a deceased person.

“Lot” An area consisting of four or more cemetery plots or burial spaces.

“Lot Marker” A marker made of concrete or metal used by cemetery personnel to locate corners of a lot.

“Marker/Monument” A marker/monument is a stone or similar material, either flush or above the ground indicating the given and/or family name(s) of the deceased.

“May” The word may is permissive as used in this ordinance.

“Plot” The term plot may apply to a space of sufficient size within a lot to accommodate a burial site. (per the regulations set forth within this ordinance).

“Shall” The word shall is mandatory as used in this ordinance.

“Superintendent of Maintenance/Sexton” The person(s) responsible for the maintenance of the cemetery grounds, ground preparation before and after interment, supervising of monument setting and foundations, and enforcement of the Rules and Regulations of the cemetery.

“Township” shall mean Kinross Charter Township.

ARTICLE 3: CEMETERY GROUNDS CONDUCT

- A. Vehicle entrance and exit to the cemetery shall be made at established passageways only.

- B. Speed limit within the cemetery shall be fifteen (15) miles per hour. Excessive speeds and unsafe or reckless driving within the cemetery is prohibited.
- C. Kinross Charter Township shall not be liable for any personal or property damage caused by any person or vehicle, but rather damage caused by persons or vehicles within the cemetery grounds shall be the responsibility of the person, driver and/or owner of the vehicle and may be subject to prosecution.
- D. Motorized pleasure vehicles, such as snowmobiles, go-carts, etc., shall not be permitted within the cemetery grounds at any time.
- E. Animals are not permitted in the cemetery unless they are confined within the vehicle. Interment of animals is strictly prohibited.
- F. The consumption or use of intoxicating beverages or mind-altering drugs within the limits of the cemetery grounds is not permitted. Profanity or boisterous language, which disturbs the quiet and peaceful atmosphere of the cemetery, is prohibited.
- G. The use of firearms in the cemetery is unlawful and prohibited except where firearms are used in conjunction with Township authorized cemetery ceremonies.
- H. Picking, mutilating or disturbing flowers, trees, shrubs, or anything of a memorial nature is prohibited.
- I. The Township shall not be responsible for the theft or damage to anything placed on cemetery lots or graves.
- J. Advertising in any form, either on gravesites, memorials or in the cemetery shall be prohibited. However, monument companies may place a small, obscure company insignia on the base of monuments if they so desire.
- K. Kinross Charter Township shall assume no responsibility for damages in the case of any marker, memorial, urn, shrub or planting being damaged in any way, during the regular course of lot care, maintenance, vandalism or subsequent burials.
- L. Trash containers utilized for the refuse of planting materials, dead flowers, weeds pulled, etc. Sod and dirt removed in order to plant flowers shall be taken away or properly disposed of, but shall not remain on the burial lot.
- M. Kinross Charter Township reserves the right to maintain all gravesites including, but not limited to, filling settled areas, reseeding of same and trimming or removal of trees or shrubs that may create a hazard to the grounds, equipment or people.

**ARTICLE 4:
SALE OF LOTS OR BURIAL SPACES**

- A. Hereafter, cemetery lots or burial spaces shall be sold only to residents or taxpayers of the township for the purpose of the burial of such purchaser or his or her heirs at law or next of kin. No sale shall be made to funeral directors or others than as heretofore set forth. The Township Clerk, however, is hereby granted the authority to vary the aforesaid restriction on sales where the purchaser discloses sufficient personal reason for burial within the township through previous residence in the township or relationship to persons interred therein.
- B. All such sales shall be made on a form approved by the Kinross Charter Township Board, which grants a right of burial only and does not convey any other title to the lot or burial space sold. Such form shall be executed by the Township Clerk.
- C. Burial rights may only be transferred to those persons eligible to be original purchasers of cemetery lots or burial spaces within the township and may be effected only by endorsement of an assignment of such burial permit upon the original burial permit form issued by the township clerk, approved by said clerk, and entered upon the official records of said clerk. Upon such assignment, approval and record, said clerk shall issue a new burial permit to the assignee and shall cancel and terminate upon such records, the original permit thus assigned.

**ARTICLE 5:
PURCHASE PRICE AND TRANSFER FEES**

A person desiring to purchase burial sites may contact the Township Clerk's Office so that an appointment may be made to select the site with the aid of cemetery personnel. Prospective owners are urged to purchase burial spaces before the immediate need exists, when clear unhurried judgment will insure a good choice. If possible, avoid the necessity of choosing burial spaces in the wintertime when the ground is covered with snow.

- A. Each adult burial space shall be determined pursuant to a rate authorized by the Township Board after recommendation of the Cemetery Committee and established by a Cemetery Fee Schedule Resolution. The Cemetery Fee Schedule Resolution may be revised, as needed, without an amendment to this ordinance.
- B. Each burial space for infants under two (2) years of age or still births, where located in an area especially set aside for such burials, shall be determined

pursuant to a rate authorized by the Township Board after recommendation of the Cemetery Committee and established by a Cemetery Fee Schedule Resolution. The Cemetery Fee Schedule Resolution may be revised, as needed, without an amendment to this ordinance.

- C. Any transfer of one or more burial spaces from an original purchaser to a qualified assignee cost shall be determined pursuant to a rate authorized by the Township Board after recommendation of the Cemetery Committee and established by a Cemetery Fee Schedule Resolution. The Cemetery Fee Schedule Resolution may be revised, as needed, without an amendment to this ordinance.
- D. All transfers of burial rights shall be made through the Township Clerk's Office. The Township thereto will recognize no other transfers of ownership of burial rights. The transfer of burial plot rights will be subject to a transfer fee for any transfers as set forth in the Cemetery Fee Schedule Resolution.
- E. The foregoing charges shall be paid to the Township Treasurer and shall be deposited in the Cemetery Fund for the particular cemetery involved in the sale or transfer.
- F. The Cemetery Committee by request, and the Township Board by Resolution, may periodically alter the foregoing fees to accommodate increased costs and needed reserve funds for cemetery maintenance and acquisition.
- G. Every burial space is sold subject to the rules and regulations now in force or that may be hereinafter adopted, and to such changes of the present rules are deemed necessary by the Township Board.
- H. Lot owners desiring to sell unused burial plots may resell them to Kinross Charter Township at the price paid at the time of purchase.

ARTICLE 6: GRAVE-OPENING CHARGES

- A. Charges for opening and closing of any burial space, prior to and following a burial therein, and include interment of ashes shall be authorized by the Township Board after recommendation of the Cemetery Committee and as established by a Cemetery Fee Schedule Resolution. The Fee Schedule Resolution may be revised, as needed, without an amendment to the ordinance.
- B. No burial space shall be opened and closed except under the direction and control of the Township, through its appointed Sexton. This provision shall not apply to proceedings for the removal and reinterment of bodies and

remains, which matters are under the supervision of the Chippewa County Health Department.

ARTICLE 7: MARKERS & MEMORIALS

- A. No marker or memorial shall be placed except under the knowledge of the Township Clerk's office.
- B. All markers or memorials must be of stone or other equally durable composite.
- C. Any large upright monument must be located upon a suitable foundation to maintain the same in an erect position.
- D. Only one monument, marker or memorial shall be permitted per burial space.
- E. A footing or foundation must be placed for any monument, marker or memorial. It may be placed and constructed by the township, at cost to the owner of the burial sight.
- F. The Township will not assume responsibility for maintenance or destruction to markers, memorials or monuments due to vandalism or natural causes.

ARTICLE 8: INTERMENT REGULATIONS

- A. Only one person may be buried in a burial space except for a mother and infant or two children buried at the same time.
- B. Not less than thirty-six (36) hours notice shall be given in advance of any time of any funeral to allow for the opening of burial spaces.
- C. The appropriate permit for the burial space involved, together with appropriate identification of the person to be buried therein, where necessary, shall be presented to the Township Clerk prior to interment. Where such permit has been lost or destroyed, the Township Clerk shall be satisfied, from his or her records, that the person to be buried in the burial space is an authorized and appropriate person before any interment is commenced or completed.
- D. All graves shall be located in an orderly and neat appearing manner within the confines of the burial space involved.

**ARTICLE 9:
GROUND MAINTENANCE**

- A. No grading, leveling, or excavating upon burial space shall be allowed without the permission of the Township Clerk.
- B. No shrubs or trees of any type shall be planted. Any of the foregoing items planted will be removed. The Township Board reserves the right to trim any tree or shrub located within the cemetery in the interest of maintaining proper appearance and safety. Removal of existing trees will be done only when a safety hazard is determined.
- C. Mounds, which hinder the free use of the lawnmower or other gardening apparatus, are prohibited. The Township shall have the right to mow and trim all lots to maintain proper appearance. Persons not wanting the Township to maintain lots must submit such in writing to the Township Office. Surfaces other than earth or sod are prohibited.
- D. When performing cemetery care, refuse of any kind, including, among others, dried flowers, wreaths, papers, and flower containers must be removed by those caring for the site. Cemetery maintenance and care will be performed by the Township. This includes but is not limited to, seeding, top dressing, cutting, trimming grass and general up keep of the cemetery.

**ARTICLE 10:
FORFEITURE OF VACANT CEMETERY LOTS
OR BURIAL SPACES**

Cemetery lots or burial spaces sold after the effective date of the ordinance and remaining vacant forty (40) years from the date of their sale shall automatically revert to the township upon occurrence of the following events:

- A. Notice shall be sent by the Township Clerk by first class mail to the last known address of the last owner of record informing him or her of the expiration of the forty (40) year period and that all rights with respect to said lots or spaces will be forfeited if he or she does not affirmatively indicate in writing to the Township Clerk within sixty (60) days from the date of mailing of the written notice, his or her desire to retain said burial rights.
- B. No written response to said notice indicating a desire to retain the cemetery lots or burial spaces in question is received by the Township Clerk from the last owner of record of said lots or spaces, or his or her heirs or legal

representative, within sixty (60) days from the date of mailing of said notice the lot shall revert to the Township.

**ARTICLE 11:
REPURCHASE OF LOTS OR BURIAL SPACES**

The Township will repurchase any cemetery lot or burial space from the owner for the original price paid to the Township, upon written request of said owner or his or her legal heirs or representatives.

**ARTICLE 12:
RECORDS**

The Township Clerk shall maintain records concerning all burials, issuance of burial permits and any perpetual care fund, apart from any other records of the Township and the same shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable business hours.

**ARTICLE 13:
VAULT**

All burials shall be within a standard vault installed or constructed in each burial space before interment.

**ARTICLE 14:
EXCEPTIONS**

This Ordinance shall not be construed to govern or regulate in any way The Rudyard Township Cemetery located within the Municipal boundaries of Kinross Charter Township as of the date of adoption of this ordinance. However, in the event of abandonment or reversion to Kinross Charter Township, this section shall become null and void.

**ARTICLE 15:
PENALTIES**

Any person, firm or corporation who violates any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than five-hundred (\$500.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for not to exceed ninety (90)

days, or by both such fine and imprisonment, plus all reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense. In addition to any remedies available at law, the township may bring a civil action for an injunction or other process against any person to restrain, prevent or abate any violation of this Ordinance.

ARTICLE 16: ATTORNEYS FEES

Should suit be filed pursuant to this Ordinance and judgment has been entered on behalf of the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff may tax actual attorneys fees involved with the enforcement as well as out-of-pocket expenses.

ARTICLE 17: SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable and if any clause, sentence, word, section or provision is declared void or unenforceable for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect any portion of the ordinance other than said part or portion declared void or unenforceable.

ARTICLE 18: AMENDMENT

The Township in conjunction with the Cemetery Committee specifically reserves the right to amend this Ordinance in whole or in part, at any time hereafter, or to repeal the same, and by such amendment to repeal, abandon, increase, decrease or otherwise modify any of the fees, charges or rates provided herein or within the Cemetery Fee Schedule Resolution.

ARTICLE 19: ORDINANCE REPEAL

Any ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ARTICLE 20: PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE

- A. A true copy of this Ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within thirty (30) days after its adoption.

- B. The Township Clerk shall file or cause to be filed an attested copy of this Ordinance with the County Clerk.
- C. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after its adoption and publication as provided for by law.

Passed and adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Kinross,
County of Chippewa, Michigan, on July 1, 2002.