

BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP INDIGENT & UNCLAIMED BODY BURIAL POLICY

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees of Bainbridge Township recognizes its legal duty to provide for indigent and unclaimed body burials. This Policy is to insure compliance with Section 9.15 of the Ohio Revised Code, and to provide appropriate disposition and interment of the bodies of deceased indigent and unclaimed persons found within Bainbridge Township. It also provides the determination of residency and indigence of the decedent.

DETERMINATION OF RESIDENCY

Since there is no statutory definition of residency, the Township shall generally consider a person to be a resident of the Township if the person at the time of death, had a physical presence in the Township, coupled with the choice and intent to make the Township the place of the person's home, or the place for which the person is most intimately connected or identified with.

In making a determination of residency the Township shall consider the following factors:

- 1) Ownership of real property within the Township;
- 2) Being a registered voter and/or voting in a precinct within the Township;
- 3) Address appearing on driver's license or State ID;
- 4) Address appearing on Federal, State and Local Income Tax Returns;
- 5) Address appearing on Motor Vehicle Titles;
- 6) Receipt of mail within the Township;
- 7) Enrollment in the Kenston Local School District or minor children's enrollment in the Kenston Local School District;
- 8) Reputation within the community of residing within the Township;
- 9) Other relevant facts establishing a connection with the community evidencing the intent to be a resident of the Township;
- 10) Not an inmate of a correctional, benevolent or charitable institution of Ohio.

DETERMINATION OF INDIGENCY

In determining the indigence of the decedent, the Township shall consider the following elements:

- 1) The ready availability of real or personal property of the decedent, which if sold would provide sufficient funds for the burial;
- 2) Any employment death benefits, pensions, annuities, social security, unemployment compensation; life insurance proceeds made payable to decedent's estate; cash on hand or other financial resources available to decedent;

- 3) Inheritance, number and ages of dependents, outstanding debts, obligations and liabilities;
- 4) Any relevant facts concerning financial means.

PROVISIONS FOR INDIGENT & UNCLAIMED BODY BURIAL

The Township will provide for resident indigent and unclaimed body burials as follows:

- 1) The disposition and interment of the body shall be made at the Township's discretion by cremation without showing or calling hours, or interment ceremony at the grave site.
- 2) A suitable grave plot in Restland Cemetery, Bainbridge Township, will be provided for interment of the decedent's remains.
- 3) A grave marker, inscribing or displaying the name, date of birth, and date of death of the decedent will be provided.
- 4) The township shall make every effort to recover all fees associated with the disposition of indigent and unclaimed bodies.

LIMITATIONS

The Township shall not be responsible for any body found within the Township, which is claimed by any person for private disposition and interment at the claimant's own expenses.

If the decedent is a resident of another township or municipal corporation in Geauga County, the disposition and interment of the body shall be made at the expense of the township or municipal corporation in which the decedent was a resident at time of death.

If the decedent is a resident in another county of Ohio, the superintendent of the Geauga County Home shall cause the disposition and interment of the body at the expense of the township or municipal corporation in which the decedent was a resident at time of death.

The manner of disposition and interment of an indigent and unclaimed body of a resident is solely within the discretion of the Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees as required and or limited by Section 9.15 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Adopted October 24, 2011
Amended October 8, 2012