

523I.305 Memorials and memorialization.

1. *Authorization.* A cemetery is entitled to determine whether a person requesting installation of a memorial is authorized to do so, to the extent that this can be determined from the records of the cemetery, as is consistent with the cemetery's rules. The owner of an interment space or the owner's agent may authorize a memorial dealer or independent third party to perform all necessary work related to preparation and installation of a memorial.

2. *Conformity with cemetery rules.* A person selling a memorial shall review the rules of the cemetery where the memorial is to be installed to ensure that the memorial will comply with those rules prior to ordering or manufacturing the memorial.

3. *Specifications.* Upon request, a cemetery shall provide reasonable written specifications and instructions governing installation of memorials, which shall apply to all installations whether performed by the cemetery or another person. The written specifications shall include provisions governing hours of installation or any other relevant administrative requirements of the cemetery. A copy of these specifications and instructions shall be provided upon request, without charge, to the owner of the interment space, next of kin, or a personal representative or agent of the owner, including the person installing the memorial. The person installing the memorial shall comply with the cemetery's written installation specifications and instructions. In order to verify that a memorial is installed on the proper interment space in accordance with cemetery rules and regulations, the cemetery shall mark the place on the interment space where the memorial is to be installed and shall inspect the installation when completed. **This subsection** shall not be construed to require that a cemetery lay out or engineer an interment space for the installation of a memorial. A cemetery shall not adopt or enforce any rule prohibiting the installation of a memorial by a memorial dealer or independent third party, unless the rule is applicable to all memorials from whatever source obtained and enforced uniformly for all memorials installed in the cemetery.

4. *Written notice.* A memorial dealer or independent third party shall provide the cemetery with at least seven business days' prior written notice of intent to install a memorial at the cemetery, or such lesser notice as the cemetery deems acceptable. The notice shall contain the full name, address, and relationship of the memorial's purchaser to the person interred in the interment space or the owner of the interment space, if different. The notice shall also contain the color, type, and size of the memorial, the material, the inscription, and the full name and interment date of the person interred in the interment space.

5. *Preparation and installation.*

a. A person installing a memorial shall be responsible to the cemetery for any damage caused to the cemetery grounds, including roadways, other than normal use during installation of the memorial.

b. Installation work shall cease during any nearby funeral procession or committal service.

c. Installation work shall be done during the cemetery's normal weekday hours or at such other times as may be arranged with the cemetery.

d. A memorial must comply with the cemetery's rules. In the event of noncompliance, the person installing a memorial is responsible for removal of the memorial and shall pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the cemetery in connection with the memorial's removal.

e. The cemetery shall, without charge, provide information as described on the cemetery's map or plat necessary to locate the place where a memorial is to be installed and any other essential information the person installing the memorial needs to locate the proper interment space.

f. A person installing a memorial shall follow the cemetery's instructions regarding the positioning of the memorial.

g. During the excavation, all sod and dirt shall be carefully removed with no sod or dirt left on the interment space except the amount needed to fill the space between the memorial and the adjacent lawn.

h. A person installing a memorial shall carefully fill in any areas around the memorial with topsoil or sand, in accordance with the cemetery's written instructions.

i. A person installing a memorial shall remove all equipment and any debris which has accumulated during installation of the memorial.

j. A person installing a memorial shall check to see if any adjacent memorials have become soiled or dirty during installation of the memorial and, if so, clean the adjacent memorials.

k. If the person who is installing a memorial damages any cemetery property, the person shall notify the cemetery immediately. The person installing the memorial shall then repair the damage as soon as possible, upon approval by the cemetery. The cemetery may require a person installing a memorial to provide current proof of workers' compensation insurance as required by state law and current proof of liability insurance, sufficient to indemnify the cemetery against claims resulting from installation of the memorial. Proof of liability insurance in an amount of one million dollars or more shall preclude the cemetery from requiring a person installing a memorial to obtain a performance bond.

l. If a cemetery has an office, a person installing a memorial shall immediately leave notice at the cemetery office when the memorial has been installed and all work related to the installation is complete.

6. *Inspection.* A cemetery may inspect the installation site of a memorial at any time. If the cemetery determines that cemetery rules are not being followed during the installation, the cemetery may order the installation to stop until the infraction is corrected. The cemetery shall provide written notice to the installer as soon as possible if the cemetery believes that any of the following have occurred:

a. The memorial has not been installed correctly.

b. The person installing the memorial has damaged property at the cemetery.

c. Other cemetery requirements for installation have not been met, such as removal of debris or equipment.

7. *Location and service charge.* A cemetery may charge a reasonable service charge for allowing the installation of a memorial purchased or obtained from and installed by a person other than the cemetery or its agents. This service charge shall be based on the cemetery's actual labor costs, including fringe benefits, of those employees whose normal duty is to inspect the installation of memorials, in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. General administrative and overhead costs and any other functions not related to actual inspection time shall be excluded from the service charge.

8. *Faulty installation.* If a memorial sinks, tilts, or becomes misaligned within twelve months of its installation and the cemetery believes the cause is faulty installation, the cemetery shall notify the person who installed the memorial in writing and the person who installed the memorial shall be responsible to correct the damage, unless the damage is caused by inadequate written specifications and instructions from the cemetery or acts of the cemetery and its agents or employees, including but not limited to running a backhoe over the memorial, carrying a vault or other heavy equipment over the memorial, or opening or closing an interment space adjacent to the memorial.

9. *Perpetual care.* A cemetery may require contributions from the purchaser of a memorial for perpetual care, if a perpetual care fund deposit is uniformly charged on every memorial installed in the cemetery.

[2005 Acts, ch 128, §27](#); [2007 Acts, ch 175, §45](#)