

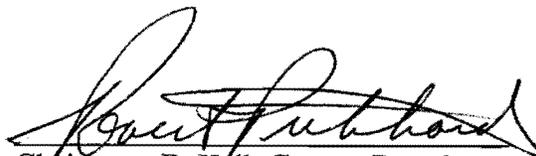
# RESOLUTION 2000-63

WHEREAS, the County of DeKalb has heretofore not established a policy relative to carrying out its responsibilities involving the burial of indigent persons, and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Public Policy Committee has been reviewing such a policy and is now recommending its adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the DeKalb County Board does hereby adopt the Indigent Burial Policy which is attached to and herein incorporated by reference to this resolution, such policy to be effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AT SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS, THIS 16TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2000, A.D.

  
Chairman, DeKalb County Board

ATTEST:

  
County Clerk

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## DEKALB COUNTY INDIGENT BURIAL POLICY

### Section 1.     **Legislative Intent**

In establishing this policy it is the intent of the DeKalb County Board that all citizens of DeKalb County who die with insufficient means shall have the right to have their remains disposed of through cremation or burial in a dignified and respectful manner. It is further the legislative intent of this policy to limit the scope of these services to residents of DeKalb County, provide reasonable compensation for those persons and corporations responsible for implementing these policies and to protect the County's taxpayers to the extent possible by minimizing the expenditures for these services.

### Section 2.     **Definitions**

- a.)     **Assets** - all things of value. All real and personal property owned by the deceased at the time of death that can reasonably be converted to cash through sale or other means of disposition.
  
- b.)     **Burial fund** - An annual appropriation maintained within the General Fund of the County of DeKalb. This fund would be the recipient of any assets seized over and above those necessary to provide for the cremation or for disposition of the remains. A fund that would be replenished when needed through the annual appropriation process. This fund to be established at 125% of the average annual expenditures for the three prior years and to be replenished through regular or emergency appropriation as needed. Funds received in excess of 125% of the average expenditures for the preceding three years shall be used to reduce subsequent annual appropriations.
  
- c.)     **Burial services** - Transportation and preparation of the body, provision of casket and all necessary services to provide for the burial of the deceased with the exception of the obtaining of a cemetery lot and the opening and closing of the grave.
  
- d.)     **County Cemetery** - The Cemetery located at the site of the former DeKalb County Nursing Home and Health Department on Sycamore Road in DeKalb, Illinois, adjacent to County Farm Woods or its successor location.
  
- e.)     **County residents** - for purposes of this policy, a County resident is defined as a person residing in DeKalb County at the time of death who lacks

sufficient assets to provide for proper cremation or burial services. This definition excludes persons who have friends or family who are willing and able to provide for such services. This definition also excludes persons who die while in the care and/or custody of public entities or public or private corporations other than the County who have sufficient assets to provide for such services.

- f.) **Family member** - for purposes of this Section, family is defined as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, spouse, step-father, step-mother, step-son, step-daughter, step-brother, step-sister, grandparents, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, guardian, grandchildren, aunt, uncle, cousins, great-aunts, great-uncles, second cousins.
- g.) **Payor of last resort** - the County, in adopting this policy, intends to become the payor of last resort. Should the assets of the deceased be insufficient and no family member, friend, corporate care giver, public or private charities or other units of government be identified that are willing and able to provide for the cost of the burial, the County will provide for burial through the Indigent Burial Fund. The Fund may also be used in combination with other resources if and when they are identified.
- h.) **Reimbursement Rate** - the rate at which service providers are reimbursed for their services. This rate is to be set and maintained at a level equal to that provided by the Illinois Department of Public Aid as adjusted periodically for such services. An initial list of providers is to be established by the County Administrator and provided to the County Coroner.
- i.) **Service Providers** - Funeral Directors and Funeral Homes located in DeKalb County who have notified the County Coroner that they wish to be listed as the providers of indigent burial services. Providers will be notified on a rotating basis as the need for their service arises and will be reimbursed at the current public aid rate for such services. An initial list of providers is to be established by the County Administrator and provided to the County Coroner.

**Section 3. Procedures**

Any citizen or corporation becoming aware of a DeKalb County resident who has died and is believed to be indigent should contact the DeKalb County Coroner's Office. The Coroner's Office routinely attempts to identify living relatives, family members, friends, etc. The Coroner also routinely attempts to identify other possible sources for funding for the burial of indigents such as the Illinois Department of Public Aid, Veteran's Assistance, etc. If no other payor can be identified, or if they can and the combination of funding available from other payors and the assets of the deceased are not sufficient to pay for the burial services, the Coroner's Office will arrange for disposal of the body and the insufficiency will be borne by the Indigent

## Burial Fund.

The preferred method of disposal of remains is cremation. Cremation will require the authorization of a family member as defined in this Section. Where authorization for cremation cannot be obtained, the remains will be placed in the County's Cemetery as defined herein. Burial Services will be arranged with the mortuary or funeral home appearing next on the rotation list. The burial service provider will be reimbursed at the current rate provided by the Illinois Department of Public Aid. The Burial Fund shall also provide payment to the party opening and closing the grave and for a marker for the grave. Particulars of the death including cause where known and any relevant circumstances surrounding the death shall be noted in the Cemetery records maintained by the County Coroner.

All routine and special maintenance costs associated with the County Cemetery shall, likewise, be borne by the Indigent Burial Fund and shall either be paid directly to those providing maintenance services or to the DeKalb County Forest Preserve as reimbursement for such services.

### **Section 4.** **Maintenance of Effort**

It shall be the responsibility of the County Administrator or his designee to assure that the Indigent Burial Fund is maintained at a level sufficient to provide for the proper disposal of the remains of DeKalb County citizens and for the proper care and maintenance of the DeKalb County Cemetery. Initial funding may be from proceeds derived from the redevelopment of the old nursing home/health complex. It shall also be the responsibility of the County Administrator to initially establish a list of burial service providers through solicitation of DeKalb County Funeral Directors. The initial list to be provided to the DeKalb County Coroner once established.

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