



## **Policies & Procedures**

### **Flowers and Decorations**

**Adopted:** March 14, 2001  
**Policy No.** GR-3

**Amended:** October 11, 2023  
**Amendment No.** 3

#### **I. GENERAL**

The following guidelines are set in place for the use of flowers and decorations on all gravesites, niches/columbaria, and any/all grounds of all cemeteries of the Hanford Cemetery District hereinafter referred to as The District. The following policies will be put in place to maintain the safety of all visitors and staff, as well as the beautification, cleanliness, and upkeep of cemetery grounds. We ask that you please follow the rules set forth below.

#### **II. POLICY** **Grave Decorations**

1. Decorations such as temporary markers, pictures, pinwheels, figurines, toys, garlands, and solar lights are allowed in the vases provided with a grave. If a grave or niche does not have a vase, one may be placed. Please contact the office for more information.
2. All flowers and decorations must be placed in the in-ground vases, core holes in the base of a marker, or vases attached to the base by a monument company. All flowers, decorations, and inserts must be secured in the vase. Any items blown out or dislodged from their vases will be discarded.
3. Iron vase inserts allowing additional room for flowers and decorations may be purchased. Please contact the office for a list of approved vendors. 30-inch, 20-inch, and 15-inch inserts are available. Full-size graves may have up to 30-inch inserts. Baby graves may have up to 20-inch inserts, and in-ground, cremation graves may have 15-inch inserts.
4. Decorations may be attached to a headstone or marker if secured and will not become detached or separated.
5. Flowers, decorations, and any other items may not be pressed into the grass. This is to allow safe, routine maintenance, weed eating, and mowing of the area.

6. Permanent vases for flowers must be set in the concrete, where permitted, with the monument, and will be set by cemetery personnel only. If a vase is missing, please contact staff for a replacement.

### **Niche/Columbaria Decorations**

1. In order to prevent obscuring other families' niche plates, please limit flowers in niche vases to a bud.
2. Niches waiting for a plate to be engraved, and a vase to be attached, may place a wreath or similar decoration as long as it is secured using tape that will not cause damage to the temporary plate. These will not be allowed after a plate has been engraved, and a vase has been attached.
3. Flowers and decorations may not be pressed in between niche plates or set on top of niches. This is to prevent damage to the niches, as well as items falling off the top.

### **All Decorations**

1. The District is not liable for floral arrangements during or after funeral services.
2. Flower arrangements from funerals will be left out for five to ten days.
3. The District staff understands the role that personal items left on gravestones/markers play in the grieving and remembrance process for the family. Every reasonable effort will be made to care for flowers that are properly placed, but neither The District nor its employees will be responsible for anything that may be **broken, lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged, or vandalized** during the district's course of work.
4. The following objects are prohibited in all Hanford Cemetery District grounds and Niche Areas **and will be discarded immediately**:
  - a. Candles of all types. Candles destroy cement settings or could become a fire hazard.
  - b. Breakable materials include but are not limited to glass and ceramic. Breakable materials become a hazard to people, animals, and equipment.
  - c. No sand, gravel, rocks, cement, casting plaster, or wax.
  - d. Food and beverages.
  - e. Mylar balloons are not allowed. As per the California Penal Code 653.1 (a).
5. No wind chimes or decorations of any kind may be placed in the Cemetery Districts' trees, bushes, and/or on cement strips.

## **Flower & Decorations Clean-up**

1. The District has the authority to remove all flowers and decorations when deemed necessary. Reasons for removing flowers and decorations include but are not limited to; wilting, faded, torn, damaged, unsightly, or cluttered.
2. Two major cleanups of flowers and decorations will be conducted each year.
  - a. **1<sup>st</sup> Monday in February** ...Removal of all flowers and decorations.
  - b. **1<sup>st</sup> Monday in August** ...Removal of all flowers and decorations.
3. Flowers and decorations will be discarded when the following occurs;
  - a. Flowers or decorations have been blown out or dislodged from their vases.
  - b. Flowers or decorations prohibit the maintenance of the cemetery grounds.
  - c. Flowers or decorations present safety concerns for staff or visitors.
  - d. Flowers or decorations obscure or harm other families' headstones, plots, or niche plates.
  - e. The total height of the headstone, including the base, and flowers or decorations exceeds a height of 42 inches.
  - f. Flowers or decorations do not follow the rules set out in this guide.

The trustees reserve the right to change or amend these rules at any time.