

**CEDAR KNOLL**  
  
**CEMETERY**

**RULES & REGULATIONS**

**175 Staples Street  
E. Taunton, MA 02718  
508-822-7229**

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## **History of Cedar Knoll Cemetery East Taunton, MA**

Cedar Knoll Cemetery was established as an all faith cemetery with a unique garden park feel. Nestled within 28 plus wooded acres along Staples Street in East Taunton, Massachusetts, Cedar Knoll is a history of people-a perpetual record of the past and a sanctuary of peace and dignity today. The cemetery, founded by George Clark, in the mid 1970's, was owned and operated by the Clark family as Cedar Knoll Cemetery Trust for the past forty years.

In the Fall of 2016, following the resignation of the family's Board of Directors and management, an independent, nonprofit, cemetery association stepped in to administer the management and operation of the cemetery. Today about one third of the cemetery land is developed into open areas and four garden sections: The Garden of Valor, where many of our local Veterans are honored and remembered, the Garden of the Cross, the Garden of Eternal Rest and the Garden of the Pines. These four sections provide in ground grave options and memorialization for full casket or cremated remains interment. Instead of the traditional upright monuments, bronze and granite memorials, placed flush to the lawn, mark the graves of those buried in Cedar Knoll. This style of memorialization helps create a peaceful, sacred, serene atmosphere and enhances the wooded surroundings. The cemetery has two memorial features that grace the property. As you drive into the cemetery, a large wooden cross is seen in the middle of the garden of the Cross and our Veteran memorial Plaque and flag pole is prominent in the Garden of Valor. The state approved Community Chapel Mausoleum built in the early 1980's is now being refurbished by the new cemetery association, which will provide the option for above ground entombment of either full casket or cremated remains for those family's desiring those options.

**Preamble:**

In order to ensure the character of Cedar Knoll Cemetery, in accord with the mind and practice of Cedar Knoll Cemetery Association, Inc. and to establish and maintain good order, the following Rules and Regulations are hereby adopted. The Board of Trustees as the governing body, is hereby empowered to enforce all Rules and Regulations and to exclude from the Cemetery any person violating the same.

**Formal Adoption:**

For the mutual protection of the License Holders, families and visitors of Cedar Knoll Cemetery & Mausoleum, in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 114 do hereby adopt the following revised rules and regulations. All License Holders and persons within the Cemetery, and all graves and other burial options shall be subject to said Rules and Regulations and the governing body shall adopt such amendments or alterations thereof or additions thereto as from time to time. Reference to the Rules and Regulations in the document conveying the right of interment shall have the same force and effect as if set forth in full therein. Voted and approved by the Board of Trustees November 9, 2016.

**Definitions:**

**Burial Rights-** This is not a purchase of property, but the rights to burial within a grave (s) or lot, which is defined as grave spaces.

**Cemetery -** all property within Cedar Knoll Cemetery dedicated for the burial of deceased human remains.

**Cremation Niche -** see Niche.

**Cremated Remains-** the final processed substance remains of the reduced composition of the body to inorganic bone fragments.

**Decorations-** the adornment, ornamentation, embellishment, memorialization, care, or beautification of a grave in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the Governing Body of the Cemetery.

**Deed-** see License of Burial and Burial Rights.

**Entombment -** the permanent placing of remains in a crypt in a mausoleum.

**Flag Etiquette-** the requirement that a flag of the United States placed upon a grave to honor a Veteran shall not touch the ground and shall not be allowed to

remain if torn or faded or beyond a specified time period as determined by regulations of the Department of Defense Veteran Affairs and the governing body of the Cemetery.

Flag Holders - known also as a commemorative marker, a device made to hold a flag of the United States and identifies the branch of service during observances honoring military.

Foot Marker - a flush to the ground memorial made of bronze or granite and placed at foot of grave. (Please see Cemetery requirements for monuments or memorials.)

Governing Body - the independent managing authority of a Cemetery as applied to a national, state veteran's Cemetery, municipal Cemetery, religious Cemetery or private non-profit Cemetery. The Board of Trustees is the governing body of Cedar Knoll Cemetery.

Grantee - See License Holder and Licensee.

Grave - a space of ground in a Cemetery used, or intended for use, for the burial of deceased human remains. (Please see your License of Burial for the number of burial rights granted and specification for ground burial.)

Grave Liner- an unsealed durable outer container of two or more pieces in which the casket is placed at time of burial in the earth.

Interment - the permanent placement of a dead human body placed in a casket, in an outer burial container, and buried in the ground.

License of Burial- a written document that records the sole purchaser of licensed burial rights of a grave (s), lot, crypts or niches located in a Cemetery.

Lawn Crypt - a pre-installed, durable, permanent liner, placed in a double depth earth burial grave that allows for two (2) traditional casket burials of the human dead, with one casket being interred above a second casket burial with a durable partition dividing the two areas.

License Holder - the sole purchaser of the licensed rights of burial of a grave, mausoleum crypt or cremation niche, located at Cedar Knoll Cemetery.

Licensee- See License Holder.

Lot - a place designated in a Cemetery comprised of one or more grave spaces.

Lot Holder - See License Holder.

Management - the person or persons duly appointed by the governing body for the purpose of conducting and administering Cedar Knoll Cemetery located at 175 Staples Street, E. Taunton, MA.

Monuments or Memorial -

Please see monument requirements for Cemetery and grave sections.

**Monument:**

*Traditional:* upright monument usually made of granite commemorating the life of a deceased person or persons and placed at the head of a grave (s) on a foundation.

*Flat:* flush to the ground memorial usually made of bronze or granite, commemorating the life of a deceased person or persons and placed at the head of the grave.

*Tablet:* a granite memorial raised and set on a foundation, at the head of the grave commemorating the life of a deceased person or persons.

*Foot Marker:* centered at foot of grave, flush to ground and made of bronze or granite.

Niche - a discrete chamber designed, constructed, and intended for use as a permanent repository, for the interment of cremated human remains, encased in an urn.

Perpetual Care - an arrangement made by the Cemetery whereby restricted funds (principle) are set aside, the income of which is used to help maintain the Cemetery.

Rights of Interment - the rights given to a License Holder for the use of a specific burial grave, crypt or niche.

Tomb - a structure so designed for the temporary storage of casketed bodies, which are not to be interred immediately.

Vault - an outer burial container that is a two- piece sealed receptacle for additional protection of the casket.

**Purpose of Cemetery:**

**The Cemetery** is intended for the interment of those entitled to burial according to the requirements of the Cemetery, Massachusetts General Laws, and the Rules and Regulations of the Cemetery. No grave, plot, lot, crypt or niche shall be used for any other purpose than the burial of the human dead. Exclusively the management appointed by the governing body shall decide any questions on the burial of any others not defined according to the Rules & Regulations, and such will be binding on both parties.

The conveyances of the rights of interment shall be exclusively limited to those License Holders approved by the management of Cedar Knoll Cemetery.

**Admission to Cemetery:**

The management reserves the right to refuse admission to the Cemetery and to refuse the use of any Cemetery equipment or facilities at any time to any person or persons, as the rules, judgment, and traditions may dictate.

**Arrangement for Interments:**

Management shall have the right to require those wishing to make a selection of a grave, crypt, or niche or arrange an interment, to call at the Cemetery office in ample time to complete the respective arrangements. If a Funeral Director or other authorized agent is representing the License Holder or their heirs, the arrangements made by the agent with management are binding on said Holder. No organization, except those approved by the governing body will be permitted to conduct services in the Cemetery.

The management shall be in no way liable for any delay in an interment of a body where a protest to the interment has been made, weather has restricted, or where rules & regulations have not been complied with, or forbid such interment; and further, said management reserves the rights under those circumstances to place the body in a receiving tomb or crypt and or held by the agent until rights have been determined. Or weather allows. Any protest may be required to be in writing and filed in the office of the Cemetery.

**Interment Procedures (see also Instructions to License Holders)**

Interment burial services shall be scheduled between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. Interments requested beyond the scheduled hours shall be at the discretion of the management and shall be charged at the Premium Time Fee (see Fee Schedule). The management shall make every effort to be as accommodating as possible in scheduling week day and Premium Time interments. There will be no interment services scheduled on Sunday, and the following legal holidays: New Years Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day / day after, and Christmas Day, or days determined by the governing body or Cemetery management. Lists of all no interment service days are available at the Cemetery office.

A Board of Health Burial Permit, a signed Interment Authorization Form and any and all fees for each casket or urn interment service must be presented to management before the interment is completed.

Funerals entering the Cemetery shall be under the charge and direction of the Cemetery management. The casket or urn may not be opened at any time within the Cemetery without the express permission and in the presence of management. Management reserves the right to refuse permission without the consent of the legal representative of the deceased or without a court order or authority of civil authority.

**Disinterment / Removal Procedures:**

No disinterment or removal of a deceased body, cremated remains or a memorial/monument shall be allowed without permission of management or an authorized court order, written authorization of the License Holder and all heirs, a Disinterment/Burial Permit from the Board of Health and the payment of all appropriate fees.

**Correction of Errors:**

The management reserves, and shall have the right to correct any errors that may be made by it either in making an interment, disinterment or removal or in the description, transfer or conveyance of any of the rights, either by canceling such conveyances and substituting and conveying in lieu thereof other interment rights or grave of equal value and similar location as best possible selected by management.

**Instructions to License Holders:**

Persons arranging for interments should visit the Cemetery's office, where the management will aid them in effecting the necessary arrangements. A funeral director as your agent may complete this for you. Arrangement by phone for services will not guarantee the correct information for arrangement. A minimum of forty-eight hours (48), two business days, is required to request arrangements for interment (Monday—Thursday). Services requested on Thursday will result in a Tuesday interment. Winter services will require additional time. A fee for a burial interment service will be approved by the governing authority and Cemetery management.

All grave interments of a casket or a cremation container shall be made with a concrete or a durable outside container in accordance with specifications determined by the management. Use of a grave liner, vault or urn vault is approved. No two-piece top covers are allowed.

Capacity: each single grave is granted the right of ground burial for two (2) deceased human remains, one option being, one (1) full casket burial and one (1) cremated remains, or two cremated remains, unless recorded otherwise. No casket burial can exceed 36 inches total width, and 96 inches total length, including the placement of the outer burial container.

License Holders have the right to place one permanent flush to earth memorial at the head of the grave or graves purchased and licensed, unless designated otherwise. All memorials will be placed in the center of the grave or graves so licensed, and on a granite foundation (GBF) approved and installed by the Cemetery. A fee for this service and rules and regulations and specifications of the monument /memorial will be set by the governing body (Board of Trustees) and Cemetery management. All forms of approved memorials to be placed on said graves remain the property of the individual License Holder. Therefore, any safety concerns or damage due to weather, acts of God, vandalism, malicious mischief, or theft, are the owner's responsibility and should be included on their home owners insurance policy.

The current specifications and requirements for memorials and markers are on file at the Cemetery office.

A temporary memorial when provided for a deceased individual may be placed at the head of the grave at the time of interment services; however it will be removed in a timely manner and considered as part of grave decoration.



License Holders may, at their own expense, have a decoration area, one foot in front of their memorial only. Annual plants and flowers may be left in their pots and placed within the designated area. Items or potted plants may not exceed 15" in height and be no longer than the memorial base in length. The decoration area shall be maintained in a neat appearance at all times. No Shepard's hooks or flamed candles are allowed.

Unightly plantings, dead flowers, holiday and all general decorations may be removed at the discretion of the management. The planting of trees, shrubs, vines, or other growing boundaries is not permitted. The use of fencing, edging, mulch, stones, or flamed lights is also prohibited. No in-ground planting beds of any kind at flush memorials or markers is allowed. Scheduled clean up and maintenance of the entire Cemetery will be posted twice each year.

The use of the lot or grave is for the License Holder and their designee only, and not for resale or profit, the rights of interment in an unoccupied designated lot or grave, may only be assigned or transferred following the procedures established by the governing authority.

The management reserves the right to permit or authorize more than one human remains in one grave. The Cemetery where acceptable, allows the burial rights of two deceased persons in a single grave. (Please review your License of Burial.)

In the event of the death of the License Holder any and all rights and privileges remaining shall pass to the family legal heirs. Management will follow the Commonwealth of Massachusetts laws (**Chapter 190, Section 3**) pertaining to the rights of heirs. All rights of the Holder and the heirs will be authorized with the use of an Interment Authorization Form for each interment right granted.

### **Service Charges and Payments:**

The management shall have the right to establish a fee for service and time of payment for each interment, disinterment, and removal, and for the performance of any other service rendered by the Cemetery including memorial GBF foundations and installation. All work and services in connection with such services shall be subject to and supervised by said management.

Any indebtedness due for work or services performed must be paid before an interment in the grave may be made, or before a memorial is installed as the case may be.

The current Schedule of Fees is contained in a document titled "Cemetery Price List".

### **Right to Replat and Change:**

The following rights and privileges are hereby reserved to the management to be exercised at any time for the erection of buildings, grave development or for any purpose or use connected with, incident to or convenient for, the care, preservation, or preparation for interment of the deceased or other Cemetery purpose: to survey, enlarge, diminish, replat, alter in shape or size or otherwise

change, all or part of the Cemetery, including establishing, closing or other wise modifying the roadways, walks, or drives.

**No Easement Granted:**

No easement or right is granted to any License Holder in any road, drive, walkway, open space, within the Cemetery, but such roads, drives, walkways, may be used as a means of access to the Cemetery, family grave(s) and its buildings as long as management devotes said areas for that purpose.

**Use of Cemetery:**

Persons using the Cemetery are expected and required to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner at all times.

Motorized vehicles and bicycles are limited to roadways and are specifically excluded from walkways and grassed areas. Speed shall be limited to ten miles per hour maximum (10 MPH).

Any object or objects placed on a grave or any Cemetery grounds which, in the opinion of management, is deemed offensive, improper or detrimental to the general appearance and safety of the Cemetery, may be removed without notice.

No pets are allowed within the confines of the Cemetery.

Alcoholic beverages or drugs are prohibited from Cemetery grounds at all times.

**Conduct in the Cemetery:**

Idling, loafing, loitering, playing, or boisterous demonstration within the Cemetery is prohibited.

Rubbish disposal, picnicking, flower or shrub sales, soliciting, placement of signs and advertisements, and improper assemblages are prohibited.

Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when on Cemetery grounds.

**Grading & Improvements:**

The management reserves the right to do all grading, landscape work, improvements of any kind, and all care of lots and graves (to plant, trim, cut or remove all trees, shrubs and herbage within the Cemetery grounds). Any and all improvements or alteration in the Cemetery will be under the direction of and subject to the approval of management. The management reserves the right to use legally approved chemical applications to beautify and protect the Cemetery grounds.

**Cemetery Hours:**

The management shall have the right to establish the opening and closing hours of its Cemetery office and its Cemetery grounds. The office hours are 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. The grounds are open for visitation from 7:30 A.M. to 7 P.M. except during the months of October through April when the hours are 7:30 A.M. to dusk.

**Outside Workers:**

The management reserves, and shall have, the right to give authorization to any non-Cemetery employees, workers and agents (memorial dealers & funeral directors) before they perform any services in Cedar Knoll Cemetery

**Employees:**

Employees of the Cemetery are not permitted to do any work for a License Holder, heir or visitor, except upon the order of the management. Employees are required to be civil and courteous to all visitors at all times.

**Loss or Damage:**

The management disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage beyond its reasonable control, and especially from damage by an act of God, the elements, insurrections, riots, order of any military or civil authority, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, or any cause similar or dissimilar beyond management's control, whether the damage is direct or collateral. In the event it becomes necessary to reconstruct, or repair any section of the Cemetery, including graves, niches or crypts or any portion thereof, management shall give written notice of repairs and repair the area. If it is the responsibility of the License Holder or its heirs to repair said damage, then said notice will be sent to the last known address of the License Holder. If the Holder does not repair the damages in a reasonable time, the management may direct the repairs to be made and charge the expense against the lot or grave and to the Holder of record.

**License Holder's Change in Address:**

It shall be the duty of the License Holder, and the heirs to notify the management of any changes in post office address. Notice sent to the License Holder at the last address in the records shall be considered sufficient and proper legal notification.

**Perpetual Care:**

The Cemetery as operated by said Cemetery Board of Trustees is a Perpetual Care Cemetery. All money that is designated for the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund is used for Cemetery purposes: The principle portion is set aside for investment and the proceeds (income) thereof are used to provide general care. The Perpetual Care Trust Fund is to be understood as that care and maintenance

necessitated by natural growth and ordinary wear, and includes the management, staff and the care of cutting of lawns, cleaning and maintenance of roadways, walks and buildings, provided there is sufficient income funds for these purposes. The Perpetual Care Fund income does not mean the maintenance, repair or replacement of any monument / memorial placed or erected upon any lot or grave: nor the planting, cutting, watering or care of any privately potted flowers, trees or shrubs: nor does it mean the reconstruction of any granite or special work in the Cemetery of a lot or grave.

### **Memorial & Rules for Memorial Work:**

The License Holder, heirs and their authorized agents (memorial dealers) shall abide by all the rules and regulations of Cedar Knoll Cemetery. The management reserves the right at all times to approve and prescribe the kind, size, design, symbolism, quality, and material of memorials, inscriptions, monuments, tablets and foot markers placed in the Cemetery. All memorials and inscriptions are subject to the approval of the management prior to their placement. Monuments/Memorials and inscriptions deemed by the management to be obscene, offensive, unreasonable, commercial, or oversized will be rejected.

Management reserves the right to establish the days and hours when memorial work may be completed in the Cemetery. All memorial work or placement of a monument / memorial shall be with the approval of the License Holder or heirs of said lot or grave. Memorial dealers shall submit a detailed drawing and design of the monument / memorial as well as a certificate of insurance to management with the request for foundation placement. The License Holder and the memorial dealer will both sign a Memorial Authorization Form before any work can be approved. The location and position in which the memorial is to be placed or erected shall be entirely subject to approval and under the supervision of management. Memorial employees, in placing or erecting memorials or bringing materials in regard to such work, shall operate in a safe and efficient manner at all times. As independent contractors, they shall be responsible at all times for their work as well as any damage to other monuments / memorials and/or Cemetery grounds. All work must conform to the Cemetery Rules and Regulations. Should any memorial, monument, marker or tablet, become unsightly, dilapidated or a menace to the safety of persons within the Cemetery, the management shall have the right to give written notice, to the License Holder to correct the condition or to remove the same, at the expense of the Holder.

Soliciting memorial sales or service work within the Cemetery is not permitted.

Memorials / Monuments shall be limited to one flush to earth memorial per License of Burial, per the size and specifications, and shall be placed in the center and head of the grave(s) or lot so licensed. All memorials will be placed on a suitable granite foundation (GBF), installed by the Cemetery staff or their designee. A Memorial Authorization Permit Form is required for all new plaques

/memorials, all inscriptions, or other work to the memorial, including all attachments.

**Measurements of Memorial Monuments:**

See printed document on memorial sizes, VA plaques and specifications for the section where you have grave(s). An example of the specifications is a single grave memorial may not exceed a total size including the granite base foundation of 28 inches by 16 inches. The granite *GBF* foundation will be 3 inches but not exceed 4 inches thick.

**Private Family Estate Mausoleum Memorial:**

Private Family Estate Mausoleums are not allowed in the Cemetery. Management has the right to set specification, size and style. Management will have final approval.

**In General:**

Persons aggrieved by these Rules and Regulations and/or the operations or application by management have the right of appeal when made in writing to the Board of Trustees and Cemetery Administrator.

The verbal statement of any employee of the Cemetery shall not be binding upon management, except as such statement coincides with the document conveying the right of interment and with the rules and regulations of the cemetery.

Cedar Knoll Cemetery through its management, reserves the right, without notice, to make temporary exceptions, suspensions, or modifications of any of the rules and regulations when in its judgment, the same appears advisable. In no way will it be considered as affecting the general application of such rules and regulations.

The above revised Rules and Regulations were approved by the Board of Trustees of Cedar Knoll Cemetery Association and the management of Cedar Knoll Cemetery on November 9, 2016

Attest:

Cedar Knoll Cemetery Association, Inc.  
Administrator

Board of Trustees

## NOTES