

CAN I BE BURIED WITHOUT GOING TO A FUNERAL HOME?

I always recommend that everyone visit with a funeral home director and discuss with them, the steps for a prearranged funeral. This visit is usually free of charge and you do not have to make, or finalize, any arrangements at that time.

In many instances you can be buried with out having a funeral home prepare the body for burial or having a cremation. However, there are certain restrictions that will apply.

Keep in mind however, any one who discovers a dead human body is required to report the death to the local coroners office, as soon as possible.

A person must be buried within 24 hours of the death, if the body has not been prepared by a licensed funeral home. If the body is placed in refrigeration, the time may be extended up to 48 hours, from the time of death.

CAN I BE BURIED SOMEWHERE OTHER THEN THE COUNTY CEMETERY?

Yes, but again there are restrictions that will apply.

Again, I recommend that you, or your family, contact a local funeral home, as they will have had some past experience with this situation and can help you plan for the burial.

It is my understanding that you need the burial plot recorded at the local county court house.

The burial plot must be fenced off and must be accessible to the general public. How or who will dig the plot? Will it be deep enough so that animals will not dig into it? Is it located close to a domestic well?

I would assume that before you dig, you will need to call the "call before you dig" number in your area and have them come out to mark the area. This may take more then 48 hours, depending upon the time of the year and any holidays!

You also need to consider the resale value of the land that the burial plot is located at.

What arrangements have you made in regards to a casket or permanent covering? What about transportation? You can not transport across a county line with out a Coroner's Transit Permit.

THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL THE THINGS THAT WILL NEED TO BE DONE. Again, it is best that you make these type of arrangements with a funeral home's help.

Dale E Hellman
Prairie County Coroner

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