

# SOLON TOWNSHIP CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

For the mutual protection of lot owners and the Solon Township Cemetery as a whole, the following rules and regulations have been adopted by the Solon Township Board as the rules and regulations of Solon Township Cemetery. All lot owners and visitors within the Cemetery and all lots sold, shall be subject to said rules and regulations, and subject further to such other rules and regulations, amendments or alterations as shall be adopted by the Solon Township Board from time to time. The reference to these adopted rules and regulations in the deed or certificate of ownership to a lot shall have the same force and effect as if set forth in full therein.

## ***DEFINITIONS***

1. *Cemetery*: The term cemetery is hereby defined to include a burial park for earth interments.
2. *Plot*: The term plot shall apply to a space of sufficient size to accommodate one adult interment approximately 3 by 10 feet.
3. *Lot*: The term lot shall apply to numbered divisions as shown on the record plat, which consists of four or more plots.
4. *Interment*: The term interment shall mean the permanent disposition of the remains of a deceased person by cremation and inurnment, entombment or burial.
5. *Memorial*: The term memorial shall include a monument, marker, tablet or headstone for family or individual use and tombstone.
6. *Monument*: The term monument shall include a tombstone or memorial of granite or marble which shall extend above the surface of the ground.
7. *Marker*: The term marker means a memorial flush with the ground.
8. *Lot Marker*: The term lot marker refers to any means used by the cemetery to locate corners of the lot or plot.
9. *Certificate of Ownership*: The term. certificate of ownership shall apply to the legal document given by the Solon Township Clerk to the original purchaser and grants the right to bury only and in no way exempts the holder of such certificate of ownership from the rules and regulations of the Solon Township Cemetery.
10. *Cemetery Committee*: The term cemetery committee shall mean the person or persons duly appointed by the Solon Township Board for the purpose of conducting and administering the cemetery.
11. *Cemetery Office*: The term cemetery office shall mean the Solon Township Offices maintained at 15185 Algoma Ave, Cedar Springs, MI 49319.

## ***SALE OF BURIAL SPACES OR LOTS***

1. Cemetery burial spaces or lots shall be sold only to Solon Township residents or taxpayers for the purpose of the burial of the purchaser or the purchaser's relatives. No sales shall be made to anyone, including a funeral director, who plans to resell the space. The Solon Township Clerk has the authority to suspend restrictions on sales on a per case basis if special circumstances are involved. For example, the Clerk may allow a non-resident to

- purchase burial space if the person once lived in Solon Township for an extended time period.
2. All sales shall be recorded on a form approved by the Solon Township Board. The form grants only the right of burial and does not convey any other right to the lot or burial space sold. The Solon Township Clerk shall complete the form.
  3. Burial rights may only be transferred to people eligible to be original purchasers of burial spaces or lots. Burial rights may only be changed if the Solon Township Clerk assigns a new burial permit to replace an original endorses the new permit and officially records the transaction. At this time, the clerk should issue the new permit to the assignee and cancel the original permit.
  4. In the event that the legal owner of a cemetery space(s) no longer has use for said space(s) the Township, at its discretion, may buy the space(s) back from the owner for resale. The amount paid will be the current price charged by the township for said space(s).

### ***GENERAL RULES***

1. Employees of the cemetery are not permitted to do any work for the lot owners except upon order of the Solon Township Board but are required to be courteous to all visitors.
2. All fees or charges for services are payable at the Solon Township Clerk's Office or Funeral Home as herein stated and patrons of the cemetery are requested not to pay any fee or gratuity to any cemetery employee.
3. Persons within the cemetery shall use only the avenues, roads, walks and alleys, and no one is permitted to walk upon or across lots or lawns unless it is necessary to do so to gain access to one's lot. The cemetery expressly disclaims liability for any injuries sustained by anyone violating this rule.
4. Persons visiting the cemetery or attending funerals are prohibited from picking flowers (wild or cultivated), breaking or injuring any tree, shrub or plant, or from writing upon, defacing or damaging any memorials, fence, or other item within the cemetery grounds.
5. No vehicle should drive faster than 5 miles per hour within the cemetery.
6. Driving off the established roads is prohibited.
7. Animals, except leader dogs, are not permitted in the cemetery.
8. No person shall obstruct any road, drive, walk or alley. The Solon Township Board reserves the right to have any obstacle blocking the road, drive, walk or alley removed at the owner's expense.
9. No bicycles or motorcycles will be admitted to the cemetery except such as may be in attendance at funerals or on business and shall be restricted to established roads or drives.
10. Children under 15 years of age are not permitted within the cemetery, or its buildings, unless accompanied by a responsible adult.
11. Receptacles for waste materials are located at a convenient place, hence, the throwing of rubbish on the drives and paths, or any part of the grounds, or in the buildings is prohibited.
12. No glass shall be left in the cemetery.
13. Any ornamentation, other than urns, which is deemed by the Cemetery Committee to be inappropriate or placed in excess shall be removed by the Sexton.
14. It is of the utmost importance that there should be strict observance of the proprieties in the cemetery. Conduct unbecoming a sacred place is prohibited, including but not limited to: (a) Loud or boisterous talking (b) Idling or loafing on the grounds or in any of the buildings (c)

Bringing lunches or refreshments in the cemetery or consuming them on the grounds (d) Peddling or soliciting the sale of any commodity within the cemetery (e) Placing of signs or notices or advertisements of any kind within the cemetery (f) Bringing firearms into the cemetery except by a military escort accompanying a veteran's funeral or attending memorial services.

15. It is the duty of the Solon Township Board to see that order is maintained and to protect and promote the best interests of the cemetery. To that end, the Cemetery Committee and Sexton are authorized to make temporary additional rules, which may be needed, from time to time, to meet emergencies that are not covered by these Rules and Regulations.
16. Special cases may arise in which the literal enforcement of a rule may impose unnecessary hardship. The Solon Township Board, therefore, reserves the right to make exceptions, suspensions, or modifications of any of these Rules and Regulations, without notice, when in the judgment of the Township Board such action appears necessary; and such temporary exception, suspension or modification shall in no way be construed as affecting the general application of such Rules and Regulations.
17. The Solon Township Board hereby expressly reserves the right to adopt additional Rules and Regulations or to amend, alter or repeal any rule, regulation, article, section, paragraph or sentence in these Rules and Regulations, at any time. Sufficient notice will be given by the Township Board of any rule change that will create expense, hardship or inconvenience to lot owners or other individuals having business with the Cemetery.

### ***LOT AND LOT OWNERS***

1. Persons desiring to purchase lots should contact the Solon Township Clerk.
2. No lot shall be used for any other purpose than for the burial of the human dead.
3. No easement or right of interment is granted to any plot owner in any road, drive, alley or walk within the Cemetery, but such road, drive, alley or walk may be used as a means of access to the Cemetery or buildings, as long as the Solon Township Board devotes it to that purpose.
4. The right to enlarge, reduce, re-plat or change the boundaries or grading of the Cemetery, or a section or sections, from time to time, including the right to modify or change the locations of or remove or re-grade roads, drives, or walks, or any part thereof is hereby reserved. The right to lay, maintain and operate, alter or change pipe lines or gutters for sprinkling systems, drainage, et cetera, is also expressly reserved, as well as is the right to use cemetery property not sold to individual plot owners for cemetery purposes, including interment of the dead, or for anything necessary, incidental or convenient thereto. Solon Township reserves to itself and to those lawfully entitled thereto a perpetual right of ingress and egress over plots for the purpose of passing to and from other plots.
5. Descriptions of lots will be in accordance with the Cemetery plats, which are kept on file in the Clerk's office.
6. The Solon Township Board will take all reasonable precautions to protect lot owners and the property right of plot owners within the Cemetery from loss or damage; but disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control, and, especially, from damage caused by the elements, an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents,

invasions, insurrections, riots, or order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral, other than as herein provided.

7. The instrument of conveyance of these Rules and Regulations and any amendments thereto constitute the sole agreement between the Solon Township Cemetery and the plot owner. The statement of any employee or agent, unless confirmed in writing by the Solon Township Board, shall in no way be binding.

### ***CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND CARE***

1. The general care of the Cemetery is assumed by the Solon Township Board and includes the cutting of the grass at reasonable intervals, the raking and cleaning of the grounds, and the pruning of shrubs and trees that may be placed at the discretion of the Solon Township Board and/or the Cemetery Committee.
2. The general care of the Cemetery assumed by the Solon Township Board shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair or replacement of any memorial, or tomb; nor the doing of any special or unusual work in the cemetery. Nor does it mean the reconstruction of any marble or granite work on any section or plot, or any portion or portions thereof in the Cemetery, caused by the elements, an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasions insurrections, riots, or by the order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral, other than as herein provided.
3. The Solon Township Board, in the interest of maintaining proper appearance and use of the cemetery, reserves the right to remove or trim any tree, plant or shrub, and to remove from within the Cemetery, flowers, displays, containers or emblems which have become unsightly, a source of litter, a maintenance problem or are deemed by the Township Board to be inappropriate. Such items shall not be replaced for any reason.
4. No grading, leveling, or excavating upon a burial space shall be allowed without permission from the cemetery Sexton or the Township Clerk.
5. No fence or enclosure of any kind shall be placed or erected on or around any burial unit.
6. Surfaces other than sod are prohibited.
7. Foundations must be installed by the sexton.
8. Approved urns, flower containers and other grave ornamentation must be placed in an area no more than 18 inches in any direction of the headstone. The sexton will remove items placed outside the allowable area.
9. No permanent plantings of any kind are allowed.
10. Only one shepherd's crook/plant hanger per gravesite is allowed. The hanger is to be used for the express purpose of displaying one plant only. No other decoration, ornamentation, or uses are allowed. The hanger shall be placed on either side of the headstone so that the plant will not interfere with cemetery lawn care.
11. The Solon Township Board has established the second Saturdays of April and October as permanent clean-up days.

### ***CORRECTION OF ERRORS***

The Solon Township Board reserves, and shall have, the right to correct any errors that may be made by it either in making interments, disinterment or removals, or the description, transfer or

conveyance of any interment property, either by canceling such conveyance and substituting any conveying in lieu thereof other interment property of equal value and similar location as much as possible, or as may be selected by the Solon Township Board, or, in the sole discretion of the Solon Township Board, by refunding the amount of money paid on account of said purchase. In the event such error shall involve the interment of the remains of any person in such property, the Solon Township Board reserves, and shall have the right to remove or transfer such remains so interred to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof.

### ***DESCENT OF TITLES***

The laws of the State of Michigan govern the descent of title to cemetery lots as well as other matters pertaining to assignments, conveyances, devises, trust deeds and inalienability. The Solon Township Clerk will assist any lot owner who desires information or advice on questions pertaining to his lot.

### ***INTERMENTS***

1. The Cemetery will open for interments throughout the year with exception of all Sundays, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Christmas and New Years. When delay will cause unreasonable hardship or inconvenience, interments may be made on such days but an additional fee will be added to the regular charge. Winter burials will be made at the discretion of the Sexton.
2. All funerals on entering the Cemetery shall be under the charge of the Solon Township Board and Sexton.
3. Once a casket containing a body is within the confines of the Solon Township Cemetery, no funeral director nor his embalmer, assistant, employee, or agent, shall be permitted to open the casket or to touch the body without the consent of the legal representative of the deceased or an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.
4. Funeral directors, upon arrival at the Cemetery, must present the necessary burial or transit permit from the local health office.
5. All orders for interments in lots must be signed by the owner of the lot or his legal representative. However, when this is impossible because such person is absent from the community, telegraphed or faxed permission will be accepted in lieu thereof.
6. Lot owners shall not allow interments in their lots in return of remuneration of any kind.
7. No interment of two or more bodies shall be made in one grave except in the case of parent and child or two infants buried in one casket, one adult burial and one cremation or two cremations.
8. When an interment is to be made within a lot, the location of such interment shall be designated by the lot owner. Should the lot owner fail or neglect to make such designation, the Solon Township Board reserves the right to make the interment in a location designated by the Solon Township Clerk and/or Sexton.
9. The Solon Township Board and the employees of the Solon Township Cemetery are the only persons who will be permitted to open graves with the following exceptions: (a) When the cemetery is directed to make a disinterment by order of a court of competent jurisdiction and a certified copy of such order has been filed with the Solon Township Clerk (b) When

the coroner directs the disinterment for the purpose of holding an inquest and has filed with the Solon Township Clerk his signed authorization to release the body to himself and his lawful agents. In such case, the coroner or his lawful agents must make the disinterment.

Cemetery employees will not be permitted to assist the coroner or his agents.

10. In order to maintain a high standard of care and to eliminate sunken graves caused by the collapse of wood boxes, it is required that all burials must be made in outside containers made of natural stone or of metal, or of reinforced concrete. All such containers must be so made and installed as to meet specifications established by the Solon Township Board. Outside containers may be procured from any source provided they meet the established specifications. When cemetery employees handle or install such containers a reasonable charge will be made for such service.
11. All charges for interment or services in connection therewith, shall be paid to the Solon Township Clerk who will issue a receipt therefore upon request.
12. Arrangement for the payment of any and all indebtedness due to the Cemetery must be made with the Solon Township Clerk before interment will be made.
13. The right is reserved by the Solon Township Board on behalf of the Cemetery to insist upon at least 24 hours notice prior to any interment and at least one week's notice prior to any disinterment or removal.
14. All interments, disinterment, and removals must be made at the time, and in the manner, and upon the charges fixed by the Solon Township Board.
15. Besides being subject to these Rules and Regulations, all interments, disinterment and removals are made subject to the orders and laws of the properly constituted public authorities.
16. Solon Township will not be responsible for any order given by telephone or for any mistake occurring from the want of precise and proper instructions as to the particular space, size of grave, and location in a plot, where interment is desired.
17. Solon Township will not be liable for the interment permit nor for the identity of the person sought to be interred.

### ***PLANTS AND SHRUBS***

1. The Cemetery Committee and Solon Township Board will undertake to maintain, as may be practicable, the planting of trees and shrubs, to preserve and maintain landscape features. Individual planting is not allowed.
2. There shall be no individual beds of shrubbery or perennial flowers allowed on the grounds.
3. The Solon Township Cemetery and its employees shall not be responsible for any kinds of plantings damaged by the elements, vandals, thieves, or by other causes beyond its control. The Solon Township Board and the Cemetery Committee have the further authority to remove all floral designs, flowers, weeds, trees, shrubs, plants, or herbage of any kind from the Cemetery as soon, as in their judgment they become unsightly, dangerous, detrimental, or diseased, or when they are in excess, improperly placed, or do not conform to the standard maintained.
4. The Township shall not be liable for floral pieces, baskets, or frames in which, or to which, such floral pieces are attached beyond the acceptance of such floral pieces for cemetery services held in the cemetery.

5. The Township reserves the right to prevent the removal of any flowers, floral designs, trees, shrubs, plants, or herbage of any kind unless the Solon Township Board gives consent.

**MEMORIALS, MARKERS, MONUMENTS**

1. In that orderly business procedure is necessary to permit sound operation of the cemetery, for and in the interest of all lot owners and the community, which it serves, these specifications are the result of careful study and reasonable application of the memorial ideal. They are not designed to hinder or be harmful to anyone and upon due consideration will stand the test of reason. No one should deliberately violate the reasonable requirements of the cemetery.
2. To avoid the appearance of congestion, only one central and family memorial should be placed on a family plot. Central/Family memorials may only be placed on full lots (those consisting of eight burial spaces) and shall be placed in the middle of spaces 6&7 (see diagram) so as not to interfere with adjoining grave spaces. Because of the space requirements for such memorials only cremated remains will be allowed in spaces 6&7. In erecting family memorials a foundation sufficient to support the memorial must be installed. The sexton shall determine the size and depth of said foundation.

Marker	Space 1	Marker	Space 8
Marker	Space 2	(Space 7) <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">Family Memorial</div>	
Marker	Space 3	(Space 6)	
Marker	Space 4	Marker	Space 5

3. For the best interest and protection of the lot owner, memorials, even for temporary use, of cement, artificial stone, composition, wood, tin or iron should not be permitted.
4. The placing of all monuments and work done on memorials is to be done by the Sexton.
5. Out of respect, and for other obvious reasons, all work of any description should cease while a funeral or interment is being conducted nearby. It should also be required that trucks and workmen withdraw to a reasonable distance from the location of the funeral service.
6. To properly perpetuate memory, all monuments and markers should be of first quality granite, marble or other natural stone, the quarried to agree with the cemetery that such material will be free from sap and components which cause rust stains and from natural faults which might cause checks or cracks.
7. Foundations (footings) for monuments or markers etc. are installed by the Sexton with a 3-inch coping. If any fault resulting from improper installation of foundations by the Sexton develops within five years from the date of installation, the cemetery shall rectify the condition without cost to others.

8. Individual grave markers (including those commonly shared by spouses) either above grade, or flush with the grade, are to be no greater than the size of the lot(s) of the deceased for which they are placed. Individual markers for grave spaces 1 through 4 shall be placed ahead of the grave and markers for grave spaces 5 through 8 shall be placed at the head of these spaces (see diagram). One per grave space.



Marker	Space 1	Marker	Space 8
Marker	Space 2	Marker	Space 7
Marker	Space 3	Marker	Space 6
Marker	Space 4	Marker	Space 5

- (steel plate with Lot number located on SW corner of each Lot)

9. Should any monument be unsightly, dilapidated, or a safety hazard to visitors, the Solon Township Board shall have the right at the expense of the lot owner to correct the condition or to remove the same.
10. The Solon Township Board has the authority to deem a marker, monument, or other memorial to be inappropriate and thus prohibit it from being placed in the cemetery.
11. The Solon Township Board, at its expense, may, without any liability, correct any error that may occur in the placing of a foundation or memorial.
12. Striving for surroundings of peace and beauty as a setting for monuments prohibits advertising of any description within the cemetery.

***ENFORCEMENT OF RULES***

The Solon Township Board is hereby empowered to enforce all Rules and Regulations and to exclude from the Cemetery any person violating the same. The Township Board shall have charge of the grounds and buildings including the conduct of funerals, traffic, employees, plot owners and visitors and at all times shall have supervision and control of all persons in the Cemetery.