

**Sterling Cemetery  
Rules and Regulations  
(Amended and updated 2018)**

**The Sterling Cemetery is owned by the Village of Sterling. The Village believes that every lot owner should be interested in knowing that everything possible is being done to enhance the sacredness and beauty of the cemetery throughout the future years. In order to accomplish this, it has been necessary to adopt certain rules and regulations governing the Cemetery and to enforce them, since deviation from the rules would jeopardize the perpetuity and beauty of the Cemetery. We trust that lot owners will appreciate the fact that these rules are adopted for their protection and they will at all times cooperate with the Village in their observance.**

**Supplementary Rules and Regulations  
Village of Sterling Cemetery, Sterling, Nebraska**

The following rules and regulations for the Village of Sterling Cemetery, Sterling, Nebraska, were adopted by the Cemetery Board for the Village of Sterling Cemetery to assist in administration and regulation of the cemetery – 1997

**1. OWNERSHIP OF CEMETERY LOTS**

- a. Every grantee in such deeds shall have the full legal ownership of his or her interment under and in conformity with the rules and regulations heretofore made or hereafter to be made by the board.
- b. Lots cannot be conveyed or transferred except with the consent and approval of the Secretary or the board and no use, division, improvement or adornment can be made which the Board by regulation prohibits or deems improper or unsuitable.
- c. The owner of any lot may dispose of it or the use thereby by a will, and if the owner dies, intestate, the lot and all the rights therein shall descend to his or her heirs in common in equal undivided shares. The heirs of such decedent shall furnish and file with the board full proof of their ownership of, and right shall accrue or be enforceable, and the right to use any such lots, however acquired shall be subject to the foregoing regulation and conditions.

**2. MANNER OF INTERMENT**

- a. All dead human bodies interred in the earth in the cemetery shall have a cover of not less than 2 ½ feet of earth over the receptacle, in which the body is placed, the top of said thickness of earth shall not be measured to a point above the level of the surrounding level of the ground and shall be in addition to any cement covering or structure. This rule shall not apply to lots in which there are now one or more so-called surface vaults.
- b. The person applying must state the following particulars—name of deceased in full, name of parents, occupation, cause of death, last residence, date of interment, name of undertaker, and physician. This is the requirement of the State of Nebraska. Also a permit must be obtained from the Secretary and State Board of Control when a body is removed.
- c. ~~\*\*The use of wood or perishable boxes enclosing the casket will not be permitted in the cemetery. \*\*~~ As of 1-26-2010 this rule is deleted and no requirements as to enclosing of caskets.
- d. Ashes from Cremation shall be placed in a suitable receptacle and buried 2 feet below the surface of the ground and only 2 cremations on burial space.
- e. No more than one deceased person per space except in case of cremation as specified in 2 d. \*\* Amended 2014, ----- It is allowed to inter only one cremation container at the foot of the same grave site as a traditional burial with casket.

- f. Any person or entity digging or excavating within the cemetery must have prior approval from the cemetery board.
- g. Added 1/26/2010 === "Green" burials will be allowed if they are buried with a depth of 4 ft. They will be allowed in any purchased lot in the cemetery. Definition of a green burial, = no embalming, allowing the body to be buried without casket or box of any type. It is usually wrapped in a cloth of some type. Nebraska State Law stipulates that a funeral home must be involved in any type of burial since they are the only entity that can issue a death certificate.

### 3. SALE OF LOTS

- a. The lots that are ready for sale will be shown by a board member and when the selection is made, the Secretary will arrange all details and collect for the lot.
- b. The sale of lots, or transfer of portion thereof, by owner shall not be permitted except by approval of the Board and prior notification of the Secretary, of such sale.
- c. A lot may be transferred and conveyed by the owner to the village for resale:

Following is the price of lots:

**Full Lot: 5 grave spaces - after March 9, 2018 - \$1000**

**2/5 of lot - \$400, 3/5 of lot - \$600**

**Full lot of 6 grave spaces - \$1200 ( 1/3 of lot - \$400; 1/2 - \$600; 2/3 - \$800)**

Exceptions: first row of blocks directly south of Central Ave. have 6 grave spaces in each lot and unsold ones are to be sold as **individual grave spaces**. -- **After March 9, 2018 - \$250 each grave space.**

**\*\*\*Amended 1/16/2007 ==Only Blocks 146, 147, 148, to remain to be sold as singles. Other lots directly south of Central Ave. in newest addition will be sold as a group of 6, or 1/2 or 1/3 or 2/3.**

- d. The record of deeds kept by the Secretary is the only recognized title as to ownership of lots within the cemetery. (Cemetery deeds are no longer recorded with County Clerk/Register of Deeds.)

### 4. MONUMENTS AND GRAVESTONES

- a. Monuments and headstones must be erected subject to the rules of the cemetery. Only a professional monument company is permitted to erect monuments and headstones. Only granite is permitted for headstones and monuments. (as of 5-3-2016)
- b. All monuments must rest upon an appropriate foundation. Amended 4/2012 to allow a base of sand/rock with a pre-cast concrete slab to be used as a base for the monument. Only professional monument companies allowed to install and place foundation.

**No fence, coping or enclosure of any kind will be permitted on burial lots. To prevent injury to monuments and adjoining lots, and to preserve the beauty of grounds, no tree or shrubs shall be planted on lots. The Board reserves the right to remove any trees, shrubs or plants now growing on lots that they deem unsightly to lots in general.**

## Newer Additional rules

- a. Monuments must be in line at head of grave. Monument means a tombstone or memorial of granite only (as of 5-3-2016) ~~or other approved natural stone~~), which shall extend above the ground. It shall not exceed the width of the grave site which is 3 ft. No more than 3 ft. high by 12 inches wide. . A single monument intended for two graves may be no more than 6 ft. and no more than 3 ft. high by 12 inches wide.
- b. ~~If a person desires to put up a stone, without using an approved monument company, he must present a plan to the cemetery board and it must be approved by the board. All rules that apply to monument companies must be observed.~~  
deleted 5-3-16
- c. No more than one stone per grave site. Any additional names could be added to original stone or a plaque could be placed on back or front of stone in event of a second later interment or cremation in same grave space.
- d. A signed application may be required of someone requesting burial or memorial space or monument placement. This would apply particularly when the original owner or owners of the lot are deceased and no immediate relatives are available to consult. This application would prove why they are entitled to this space and any special requests. The secretary shall keep any such documents as permanent records.
- e. No pets shall be buried and no memorial spaces allowed for pets.
- f. Funeral homes will provide printed information as required in Section 2, item b. in supplemental Rules and Regulations. Secretary shall keep on file all these required funeral home information papers. Like forms will be required on all cremations in addition to ordinary interments.
- g. An information application will be required on all Memorial spaces and kept on file by the Secretary.
- h. Person laying out graves shall not be responsible for vague instructions given over the telephone, instructions must be in writing.
- i. Amend Section 2 d. Scattering of ashes on a grave site is prohibited. Ashes must be, as a minimum requirement, in a ~~\*\*sealed permanent container \*or airtight urn.~~ \*Amended 2/2007====delete words "or airtight urn" \*\*Amended 1/2010 - - delete words "sealed permanent". Only "container" required. Additional wording ===No urn vault is required.
- j. Amend Section 2 e. to allow for 2 babies to be interred in one grave space.
- k. ~~When half of 5 gravesite lots are sold, the middle grave site between the half lots is considered to be eliminated, therefore leaving only 2 grave sites per half lot. An exception to this may be considered if there is a written agreement on file with the Secretary signed by all owners of both adjoining half lots for any future plans. As of 10/14/2015 – this will no longer be a requirement. For future sale of lots ----whole, 2/5 of lot or 3/5 of lot will be permitted and required.~~

**Decorations of Lots**

l. Nothing shall be added to grave site that will interfere with mowing. The exception would be 10 days before Memorial Day and 10 days after Memorial Day. Any decorations or objects that would interfere with mowing, remaining after June 15<sup>th</sup> will be removed.

m. Plantings permitted are peonies. Larger plants, shrubs or trees are prohibited.

n. Any lot decorations or plantings that are deemed neglected and in disrepair shall be removed.

Note: a reminder that rule #4 b. states that **no fence, coping or enclosure of any kind will be permitted on the burial lot. Also no benches allowed or any item interfering with mowing.**

A copy of these rules and regulations shall be given to all new purchasers of lots and made available at the Memorial Day observance.

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*In regard to regulations on decorations of graves we do not wish to displease anyone. Quite the contrary, we want to make your Cemetery pleasing to everyone and we feel certain that these rules will provide a much more beautiful and comforting place in which to come and pay your respects. Without uniform regulations, which are established for the good of all patrons, it would be impossible to maintain a beautiful Cemetery. We thank you for your cooperation.*

**Note: Before having a stone placed, or a cremation spot dug, or any other procedure, you must contact Tom Nieveen or a board member for marking for proper placement.**

The Sterling Cemetery Board

- Vane Rengstorf – President 866-5432 or cell 402 440 2544
- Denise Horstman – Secretary 866-6659 or cell 402-309-5741
- Board Members – Linda Hronek, Jill McAuliffe, Melissa Wentz
- Village Board Representative – Tom Nieveen
- Marking graves, cremains placement, monuments, etc. - Tom Nieveen –cell 402 525 9926
- Asst. Vane Rengstorf.

Web site for listing of burials - [www.sterlingne.com](http://www.sterlingne.com)