

ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT

RULES AND REGULATIONS

FLOWERS – DECORATIONS – MEMORIAL MARKERS

Our District's cemeteries are designed to create a park like setting made beautiful by lovely trees and the sweep of green lawns. This is accomplished by placing markers flush with the surface of the ground and allowing nothing to interfere with the natural surface or contour of the lawn.

The placement of flowers and memorial markers on the interment space of our loved ones is both a time-honored tradition and a beautiful expression of love and remembrance. To retain the park like setting for all and to provide that this setting can be maintained economically and with uniformity, certain rules must be followed.

FLOWERS AND ORNAMENTS

1. No monument, architectural object, tree, or other permanent device shall be permitted on cemetery interment spaces or placed in or attached to any tree or shrub.

Exceptions: Each interment space may have no more than two (2) flower containers. One container shall be a flower vase placed flush with the surface of the ground and installed by District employees. The second container may be an additional flower vase OR a flower container.

2. No person other than District employees or persons acting under the direction of the General Manager shall plant trees, shrubs, flowers, ground covering or plants of any type in any part of the cemetery.
3. DO NOT line markers or gravesites with loose stones or landscaping rocks. These can become dangerous projectiles when mowing occurs. Any loose stones or landscaping rocks found on gravesites will be immediately removed and discarded.
4. **All items placed on gravesites will be removed and discarded every Wednesday during full park cleanups and water removed from all containers.**

Exceptions: The District will relax its flower removal procedure during certain holiday periods throughout the year. A sign will be placed at the entrance or near the office to indicate the extended periods. In addition, if there is a birthday or anniversary of the person interred, then the family may request that the flowers be left on the interment space for an additional week. Staff will verify that there is a birthday or anniversary date before permission is granted to allow flowers to stay on interment space longer. We are required by Orange County Vector Control to empty all vases weekly, however we have the ability to allow additional time if the families empty and replace the water.

5. Mowing occurs throughout the week as the interment schedule allows, not just on full park clean-up days. However, staff will only remove items from gravesites during full park clean-ups.
6. After a funeral service, the flowers brought to the cemetery should be left on the interment space for approximately two days during the summer months and approximately three days during the winter months.
7. Flags may be placed on interment spaces in such manner as they may easily be removed for mowing. Flags will be removed and disposed of by District employees as they become unsightly.

8. Every reasonable effort will be made to care for flowers, flags or containers placed on interment spaces, but neither the Cemetery District nor any of its employees will be held responsible for anything of a movable nature that may be lost, stolen or misplaced. Please do not place any items of great monetary or sentimental value on the gravesites, as staff cannot ensure the security of items left unattended.

***MEMORIAL MARKERS**

1. No lot or space shall be defined by any architectural object or by any marker unless approved by the General Manager, his designee or other person authorized by the Board of Trustees.
2. **All markers must be placed flush with the surface of the ground. The District no longer allows upright monuments.** Exception at Santa Ana Cemetery: When a section has been completely filled (i.e. no more interments) upright monuments will be allowed at that time.
3. Flat markers shall be set flush and level with the ground and shall be installed by District employees or those acting under direction of district staff.
4. Only one marker shall be permitted on each space. Any exception must be approved by the General Manager or his designee prior to installation.
5. Only approved granite, marble or bronze markers with square, smooth edges will be accepted. Bronze markers will require payment for the placement of a cement base to support the bronze marker.
6. No marker with lettering, emblems, borders or other designs raised more than 3/8" above the surface of the marker will be accepted.
7. If you are placing a picture on a marker, the family must sign a "Waiver of Damages to Photographs" form and deliver or mail it to the District prior to the delivery of the marker. The District will not set a marker with a picture if the waiver has not been completed and submitted. Photos can become loose and separate from the marker and be damaged by equipment. Neither the Cemetery District nor its employees are responsible for photos which become loose and damaged. Markers designed for a photo tile will not be accepted by the cemetery unless the photo tile has been properly adhered to the marker by the marker company prior to delivery.
8. The District will no longer be placing cement borders around any markers or accepting markers with cement borders from marker companies. (The only exception is if the district has already accepted payment for it in advance). Families interested in a border are encouraged to order a faux or etched border from the marker company at the time of placing order.
9. Approved markers shall be limited in size as follows:
 - A) Single, double-depth, multiple or companion interment space markers shall be no larger than 16"x28"x3" unless approved in advance by the Cemetery Manager. If you are ordering a faux or etched from the marker company, then the maximum size shall be no larger than 20"x32"x3".
 - B) Baby Section grave markers and urn garden grave markers shall be no larger than 12"x24"x3".
 - C) Markers for the Los Alisos urn garden at El Toro Memorial Park shall be bronze and no larger than 8"x12". Markers for the Centennial urn garden shall be 24"x12" and may be bronze, granite or marble.
10. Once a marker or niche plate is delivered, District staff will verify that the marker or niche plate setting fee has been paid and then set the marker or niche within 15 to 30 business days.

*Pursuant to Section 9052(d) of the California Health and Safety Code, it is unlawful for any employee or officer of the cemetery district to engage in the selling of monuments and markers.