

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. During non-holiday periods, gravesites may **only** be decorated with fresh cut or artificial flowers placed in no more than two in-ground flower vases installed by cemetery staff or in temporary plastic cone vases which are available at the cemetery office. Mylar and latex balloons are allowed if they are securely fastened to vase receptacles.
2. **No monuments, architectural objects, trees, solar or battery powered lighting, fencing of any kind, flags (except for small U.S. flags), pennants, windmills, pinwheels, vigil candles, statues, stuffed animals, toys, shepherd hooks, or other permanent devices shall be permitted on cemetery interment spaces or placed in or attached to any tree or shrub.**
3. The District will relax gravesite decoration rules for the following federal holidays:
 - Memorial Day
 - Independence Day
 - Veterans Day
 - Thanksgiving
 - Christmas

In addition, the District will relax gravesite decorations for the following non-Federal holidays:

- Valentine's Day
- Mother's Day
- Father's Day
- Halloween/Dia De Los Muertos*

During these holiday periods gravesites may be decorated using the flower vases referenced in Item 1 above AND two additional items including: **potted plants** (containers should not exceed 10" in height or 12" in width), **wreaths**, or **planter dishes** (planter dishes should not exceed 14" in width or 6" in height). Christmas trees should not exceed 30" in height. Small U.S. Flags will be allowed on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. All U.S. Flags will be removed on the first Wednesday clean-up following the holiday, regardless of whether it is a full park clean up or a light clean up.

*During Dia De Los Muertos, families are allowed to create ofrendas on gravesites, however, no fencing is allowed and the construction of ofrendas should not infringe on neighboring gravesites. Ofrendas should not impede the ability of cemetery staff to mow gravesites. Small mementos and photos may be included in the ofrendas.

4. Do NOT leave items of great sentimental or monetary value, as cemetery staff cannot secure these items. The District is not responsible for items that are lost, stolen, or items that are discarded by District Staff on scheduled cemetery cleanup days.
5. Candles of any kind are not allowed and the burning of incense is prohibited.
6. 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.
7. Gravesites cannot be outlined in any manner. DO NOT line markers or gravesites with loose stones, landscaping rocks of any type. These can become dangerous projectiles when mowing occurs. Any loose stones or landscaping rocks found on gravesites will be immediately removed and discarded.
8. Glass receptacles are not allowed. Do not leave items on the gravesite that are breakable or fragile in nature.
9. **All items placed on gravesites will be removed and discarded every Wednesday during full park cleanups and water removed from all containers. Signs are placed at the entrance or near the office to indicate if the upcoming Wednesday cleanup is a full park clean-up or a light clean-up. The Cemetery Cleanup Schedule is also available on the District website at: www.occemeterydistrict.com. 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.**
10. 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 Wednesday clean-ups. If you remove items before a cleanup, please do not return items on Wednesday afternoons immediately following the cleanup. This will help staff more efficiently mow and trim the lawns when less items are present on gravesites. We appreciate your cooperation in this request. Please return items to gravesites no earlier than Thursday mornings.
11. After a funeral service, all flower arrangements and decorations of any kind may be left on the gravesite. Staff may discard these items after five days from the date of the interment.
12. Please do not adhere tape, stickers, glue or other adhesives to the face of niches. Only niche vases should be used.

***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 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.
5. No marker with lettering, emblems, borders or other designs raised more than 3/8" above the surface of the marker will be accepted.
6. 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.
7. The District no longer allows cement borders around any markers. Markers with cement borders from marker companies will not be accepted. Families interested in a border are encouraged to order a faux or etched border from the marker company at the time of placing an order.
8. Approved markers shall be limited in size as follows:
 - A) Markers placed on casket spaces shall be 24"x12"x3" or 28"x16"x3" or 32"x20"x3". Be advised that 32"x20"x3" markers are oversized and cost more to install. Refer to the current District price list for Marker Installation Fees.
 - B) Baby Section grave markers and urn garden grave markers shall be 20"x10" or 24"x12"x3" or 28"x16"x3".
 - C) Markers for the Los Alisos urn garden at El Toro Memorial Park shall be bronze must measure 12"x8". Markers for the Centennial urn garden shall be 24"x12"x3" and may be bronze, granite or marble.
 - D) Bronze markers require the purchase of a base. Refer to the current District price list for the Bronze Marker Base Fee.
 - E) Bronze niche plates are 5"x3" with a 1/4" raised polished border.
Exception: Los Alisos 30 Niche Columns A, B, C, and D located at El Toro Memorial Park, have niche plates that measure 6"x4" with a 1/4" raised polished border.
9. Once a marker or niche plate is delivered, District staff will verify that the marker or niche plate setting fee has been paid and that a completed Marker Purchase Acknowledgement and Disclosure Form has been received. Staff will make every effort to install markers and niche plates in the order they are received. Marker installations typically take 15 to 30 days to complete, but may take longer depending on the interment calendar and the number of markers waiting to be installed.

*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.