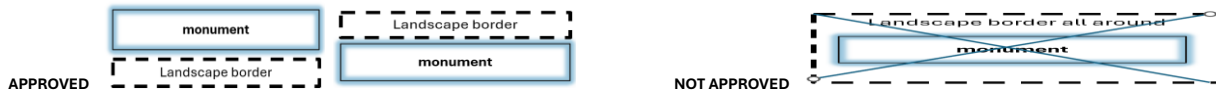


Rules and Regulations
Marion I.O.O.F. Cemetery
(Updated 5-11-26)

Operated and Managed by the Center Township Trustee, Grant County

To ensure the cemetery grounds can be properly maintained, mowed, and preserved in a respectful manner, all Owners of Interment Rights (referred to as “Owners” in this document) are required to comply with the following rules and regulations as set forth by Center Township Trustee (referred to as “Township”):

- Spaces shall not be spaded, altered, or disturbed in any manner by Owners or visitors;
- No glass containers, ornaments, or materials of any kind are permitted on spaces, monuments, or cemetery lawns. Center Township Trustee personnel (referred to as “Cemetery personnel”) and other hired Cemetery personnel (referred to as “Cemetery personnel”) are authorized to remove such items without financial compensation;
- No trees, bushes, shrubs, flowers, or plants of any variety may (not) be planted on cemetery property. Cemetery personnel are authorized to remove any unauthorized vegetation;
- No space shall be used for any purpose other than as a place of interment;
- Decorative rocks or loose stone are prohibited on spaces or lawns. Benches are not permitted on spaces where a headstone is in place, nor may benches be used as footstones. Any granite or marble bench must receive prior approval from the Township and must be permanently affixed to an approved foundation. No materials other than granite or marble are permitted;
- The Owner of each space shall have the right to erect monuments or sepulchral structures only in accordance with the regulations established by the Township;
- Containers for fresh cut or artificial flowers must be securely attached to the monument or foundation;
- Owners wishing to place decorations or flowers not attached to a monument or foundation are responsible for installing a ground-level landscape border located either in the front or back of the monument, but not both. The border may not extend more than twelve (12) inches from the foundation and may not exceed the length of the monument foundation;
 - Floral arrangements and decorations must remain entirely within the approved landscape border area. Any decorations placed outside the border may be removed by Cemetery personnel;
 - Suggested landscape border materials include durable stone or similar weather-resistant edging to promote longevity and reduce the likelihood of weather-related damage or deterioration;
 - The area within the landscape border must be maintained by the Owner in a neat, safe, and orderly condition. If the area becomes overgrown, neglected, unsafe, or unsightly, Cemetery personnel may remove decorations, borders, or other items without financial compensation;
 - If a landscape border becomes aged, damaged, deteriorated, or unsafe, it must be repaired or replaced by the Owner prior to the winter season. Cemetery personnel are authorized to remove deteriorated borders that are not repaired or replaced in a timely manner, without financial compensation;
 - Shepherd hooks, tall metal stakes, solar stakes, hanging lantern stands, or similar freestanding decorative items are prohibited outside of the approved landscape border area;
 - Artificial floral arrangements must be maintained in good condition. Arrangements that become faded, weathered, torn, shredded, or otherwise unsightly shall be removed by Cemetery personnel and authorized to remove such items without financial compensation if not timely removed by the Owner;



- Fresh cut flowers will be removed by the Cemetery personnel once they become wilted or unsightly. Individuals wishing to preserve such flowers must remove them within forty-eight (48) hours;
- The Township shall not be responsible for any article that is lost, misplaced, broken, or stolen;
- All graves and spaces shall be opened and prepared only by Cemetery personnel or approved contractors. All associated fees shall be established and charged by the Township;
- Winter decorations, including holly, evergreen arrangements, and artificial wreaths, are permitted beginning November 20 and may remain until March 1. All such decorations must be removed by the Owner by March 1. Cemetery personnel are authorized to remove remaining items without financial compensation;
- Watering utensils, buckets, or similar items shall not be left on spaces or cemetery lawns. The Township assumes no responsibility for items left on cemetery property, and Cemetery personnel are authorized to remove such items without financial compensation;
- Owners of Interment Rights are prohibited from selling, transferring, assigning, or gifting their spaces, in whole or in part, without the express written approval of the Township. No transfer shall be considered valid until approved by the Township and properly recorded with a new certificate of interment;
 - Any remains already interred within a space shall not be removed as part of a transfer;

- Any unoccupied portion of a space may be resold or conveyed only through the Township and in accordance with Township regulations;
- All spaces are provided with perpetual care. “Perpetual Care” includes mowing grass, trimming weeds, clearing brush or tree limbs, and maintaining cemetery driveways as necessary to preserve the grounds;
- “Perpetual Care” does not include repair or replacement of monuments or memorial structures, planting or maintenance of flowers or ornamental plants, watering of grass, or any special or unusual maintenance requests;
- The Township will exercise reasonable care to protect cemetery property but expressly disclaims responsibility for loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by circumstances beyond its control, including but not limited to theft, vandalism, malicious mischief, riots, weather events, windstorms, cyclones, or natural deterioration;
- Any wording, inscription, emblem, or notation other than names, birth dates, death dates, wedding dates, or military service information must receive prior approval from the Township;
- Memorials shall not contain any inscription, symbol, image, emblem, design, or depiction considered obscene, profane, vulgar, offensive, or inconsistent with the respectful purpose of the cemetery. Prohibited content includes, but is not limited to:
 - Profanity or vulgar language;
 - Nudity or sexually explicit imagery;
 - Skull imagery or violent depictions;
 - Gang-related symbols or extremist imagery;
 - Demonic or occult-related imagery;
 - Hate symbols or discriminatory content;
 - Drug or alcohol references;
 - Threatening or intimidating imagery.

The Township shall retain sole discretion in determining whether any memorial inscription, design, symbol, or image violates cemetery standards and reserves the right to deny, remove, or require modification of any memorial that does not comply with these regulations;

- Flag poles of any size or height are prohibited;
- Upright memorials must be installed using stainless-steel pin rods securing the base to the foundation. Foundations must include dry holes, and monument bases must include epoxy holes. One-eighth (1/8) inch spacers and approved setting compound shall be used. Caulking may not be used as a substitute for proper installation methods. These requirements do not apply to small upright memorials or tablets;
- Foot memorials and flat military markers must be installed flush with the ground, and the applicable foundation fee shall apply and approved by the Township;
- A copy of any memorial warranty must be provided to the Township;
- Families of veterans are responsible for all applicable fees related to foundations and memorial installation if no government stipend or reimbursement is provided;
- All pets must remain on a leash no longer than three (3) feet in length and must be cleaned up after immediately. Any damage caused by a pet to cemetery property, memorials, or spaces shall be the financial responsibility of the pet owner;
- The Township is actively working to clear and remove trees, bushes, and overgrown vegetation that contribute to ground damage, memorial damage, and mole activity creating hazardous conditions throughout the cemetery;
- Visitors are respectfully requested to take flowers, decorations, and discarded items home for disposal. Items may not be left on cemetery lawns, placed in tree lines, discarded in bushes, or thrown into drainage ditches;

IMPORTANT

Violations of any Cemetery rules and regulations may result in fines or removal of unauthorized items by the Township.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping maintain the beauty, safety, dignity, and serenity of Marion I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

For questions or assistance, please contact the Center Township Trustee’s Office.

*****The Township has closed certain pathways previously used as drivable access roads due to damage of gravesites, headstones, and cemetery grounds.**

******Visitors requiring assistance accessing a loved one’s gravesite due to a handicap or mobility impairment may contact the Center Township Trustee’s Office to inquire about available transportation assistance from their vehicle to the gravesite******