



HOLMES COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE
75 E. CLINTON ST SUITE 104
MILLERSBURG, OH 44654
Veterans Serving Veterans

2022

INDINGENT BURIAL POLICY

- (1) Veteran will be considered as defined by ORC 5901.01(B) and 5901.08.
 - a. 5901.01(B) As used in Section 5901.08 and other sections of the Ohio Revised Code with regard to applications for financial assistance under Sections 5901.02 to 5901.15 of the Ohio Revised Code, “VETERAN” means a person who served in the Armed Forces of the United States on active military duty and was discharged from the service under Honorable conditions, and who either served on active duty for reasons other than training or while serving on active duty for training, incurred a disability recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense as service-connected.
 - b. 5901.08 Each applicant for financial assistance under sections 5901.02 to 5901.15 of the Ohio Revised Code shall be a veteran, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the spouse, surviving spouse, dependent parent, minor child, or ward of a veteran or active-duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, and who has been a bona fide resident of the county in which application is being made for at least three months (90 days).
- (2) Application will follow the present guidelines as well as ORC 5901.26 and 5901.27.
 - a. Before assuming the charge and expense of any burial or cremation, the Veterans Service Commission (VSC), pursuant to section 5901.25 of the Revised Code, shall satisfy itself, beyond a reasonable doubt, by carefully inquiring, that the family of the deceased is unable, for want of means, to defray the expenses of the burial or cremation, or that the family may be deprived of means actually necessary for its immediate support. The VSC shall set forth the name of the deceased, the rank, and command to which the deceased belonged (if a veteran), the date of death, the place of burial or disposition of the person’s cremated remains, the occupation while living, and an accurate itemized statement of the expenses incurred by reason of the burial or cremation.
 - b. It must be determined that the veteran/the veteran’s survivors (or those responsible for the funeral) are without means to pay. If the Veteran has no family or friends to accept responsibility for arranging or paying for cremation/funeral services for the Veteran, then the VSC may accept responsibility and coordinate these services on their behalf.

- c. Applicant (other than funeral home) will provide a financial statement with the application for burial assistance.
 - d. Applicant will provide the VSC with an itemized statement from the funeral home listing all expenses. When the benefits are claimed the entire amount to be contributed by the VSC toward the cost of the burial or cremation shall not exceed the sum of one thousand dollars and that any remaining costs are paid by the family or friends of the deceased. Applicants will not be reimbursed for services already paid for.
 - e. Applicant will provide the VSC with a copy of the separation/discharge document and death certificate.
 - f. All applications will be acted upon within 30 days of it being submitted to the VSC. The VSC may delegate authority to approve Indigent Burial applications to the Holmes County Director of Veteran Services and Veteran Service Officers to prevent delays of appropriate funeral services. The VSC will review all documents associated with application at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting during Executive Session.
- (3) The very nature of an indigent burial indicates that family, friends, or the estate of the deceased is insufficient to provide a proper burial or cremation.
- a. Funeral Services (cremation or burial) must be rudimentary. Scheduling elaborate, expensive upgrades beyond basic services will be considered an indication that the family or friends of the deceased have means that have not been reported. The VSC has the authority to deny funeral service assistance for requests that are excessive. This determination will be based upon the current economy and standard local base-rates for such services.
 - b. At no time will the VSC approve payment of the opening or closing of the grave. There are plots within the county (within certain participating cemeteries) that may be provided at no-charge if the veteran meets the eligibility requirements.

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BRANDON L. IRVING
Director, Holmes County Veteran Services