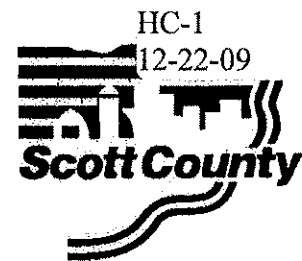


Community Services Department
600 W. 4th St.
Davenport, Iowa 52801



(563) 326-8723 Fax (563) 326-8730

December 14, 2009

TO: Dee F. Bruemmer

FROM: Lori A. Elam

RE: General Assistance Guidelines- Burial Expenses

In the process of making adjustments to the FY10 General Relief budget, I asked the local funeral home directors for input and suggestions. The goal was to meet the needs of the citizens of Scott County by providing a basic funeral service, ensuring the funeral home directors were receiving adequate pay for their services, and trimming the county budget.

When a family seeks financial assistance from the county for a burial, state code only allows our department staff to consider the financial ability of the immediate family members- parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren all over the age of 18. The funeral homes directors have reported numerous situations in which other family members have provided additional funds for other services/items related to the funeral.

As stated earlier, the goal of the county was to meet the needs of the citizens by providing a basic funeral service to individuals who qualify. The local funeral home directors developed a proposal in which there is a significant reduction of county funds, while at the same time, allowing families, who have funds available, to pay for some of the services and additional services if so desired, while still covering the funeral home costs of a basic funeral service. The proposal created a win-win situation for the county, the citizens and the funeral homes.

The proposal results in a 16.2% reduction in the basic funeral allowance from \$2249 to \$1885. In the revised guidelines, specific covered services are listed. The family financial responsibility, if additional services are requested, is also listed. The funeral home directors have agreed that if a family has no additional funds available, they will not be charged any additional costs. The proposal also results in a 10% reduction in cremation costs from \$1500 to \$1350.

The new guidelines are listed below:

A. Expenses allowed shall be as follows:

1. Up to \$1885 for funeral services expenses will be allowed for persons over one year of age. Up to \$1500 for funeral expenses will be allowed for a baby up to one year of age. The specific funeral services include transfer of deceased to funeral home,

THE COUNTY AUDITOR'S SIGNATURE CERTIFIES
THAT THIS RESOLUTION HAS BEEN FORMALLY
APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON

DATE

SCOTT COUNTY AUDITOR

RESOLUTION

SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DECEMBER 22, 2009

APPROVING CHANGES TO THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES RELATING TO BURIAL EXPENSES

BE IT RESOLVED BY the Scott County Board of Supervisors as follows:

Burial Expenses shall be as follows:

1. Up to \$1885 for funeral services expenses will be allowed for persons over one year of age. Up to \$1500 for funeral expenses will be allowed for a baby up to one year of age. Services include transfer of deceased to funeral home, embalming, body preparation, abbreviated arrangement conference at the funeral home, funeral coach to cemetery, preparation and filing of the death certificate, preparation and placement of minimum obituary in local newspaper, preparation and filing notification of death with Social Security Administration, private viewing at funeral home not to exceed one hour for immediate family only and committal service only. If the family requests a chapel funeral service at the funeral home, they would be responsible to pay the funeral home \$415 for the use of the facilities and necessary staff. Custom obituary charges, if incurred, are the responsibility of the family.
2. Up to an additional \$195 (verifiable by invoice) shall be available for an appropriate casket. If an oversized casket is required, the county will pay \$250 and the family will pay an additional \$250 directly to the funeral home.
3. Up to \$530 for disposition of the body will be allowed. This benefit may be utilized for grave liners, gravesite opening/closing and any other interment costs. During the months of December, January, February and March, an additional \$50.00 will be available to cover the

cost of "thawing" a gravesite, if needed. Whenever possible, county owned plots are to be utilized for burial. Burial is limited to a 25-mile radius of Scott County. In rare instances when a Scott County approved burial requires out of town transportation of the body, mileage must be pre-approved by the Case Aide. Depending on the situation, the family may be asked to pay for transportation charges.

4. In all cases, the appropriate disposition benefit identified above represents payment in full for services provided and may not be supplemented by funeral directors.
5. Up to \$1350 will be allowed for cremation expenses. Services include transfer of the deceased to the funeral home, professional service fees, vehicle to crematory, abbreviated arrangement conference at the funeral home, private viewing at the funeral home, minimal temporary container for ashes or place ashes into a container provided by the family, release of ashes to family. The family will pay the crematory fees not to exceed \$250, the medical examiner's cremation permit fee not to exceed \$50 and \$145 to the funeral home if they choose to have a church or chapel service.
6. This resolution shall take effect 1/1/2010.

