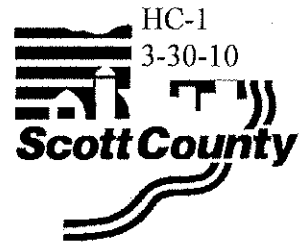


Community Services Department

600 W. 4th St.
Davenport, Iowa 52801



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

March 22, 2010

TO: Dee F. Bruemmer

FROM: Lori A. Elam

RE: General Assistance Guidelines- Revised Cremation Expenses

In December, the General Assistance Guidelines for burial expenses were revised and approved by the Board of Supervisors. Again this was due to the cooperation of the local funeral home directors. The county's 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.

It has been brought to my attention that the intent of the cremation language may have resulted in some families choosing a burial, when they really preferred to have a cremation. Families were being asked to pay for the crematory fees and the medical examiner's cremation permit fee.

I am proposing an increase in the cremation expenses the county pays to the funeral homes and to eliminate the family responsibility of the crematory fees and medical examiner's permit fee. The revised policy would read:

Up to \$1600 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, and release of ashes to family. The family will pay \$415 to the funeral home if they choose to have a church or chapel service.

The family will not be asked to pay for the cremation fees or permit, but will still be required to pay extra for any additional services they may want similar to burial requirements. This will allow families to pick what kind of service they want, still cover the costs of the funeral homes and ultimately save the county some money.

The revised guidelines, if approved, will be implemented April 1, 2010. With the above changes, the county will save approximately \$815 each time a family applies for burial assistance and choose cremation instead of burial. The savings for the remainder of FY10 is approximately \$8150 based on twenty applications for burial assistance in the last quarter. I will be at the Committee of the Whole meeting to address any questions.

Scott County Community Services- General Assistance Program

Burials

- A. All of the deceased assets must be applied toward burial expenses, including cash on hand and funds in checking and savings accounts, or savings certificates.
- B. Death benefits may be available from employment, railroad retirement, pension plans, VA benefits, life insurance policies, prepaid burial agreements or social security. The family of the deceased must apply for these benefits and apply them to costs of the burial. Any and all funds generated from memorials must be applied to the burial costs. If the family of the deceased discovers a death benefit, savings account or other resources after the funeral, they are expected to notify this office and the funeral home. If the county deems the family of the deceased ineligible now or in the future because of resources, the family would be held responsible for the actual costs of the burial services at the funeral home and cemetery.
- C. Application.
 1. If a county burial is indicated, a General Assistance application must be completed and signed by the surviving spouse or next of kin, if no spouse, within 72 hours of the person's death.
 2. Income of the available spouse must be within General Assistance income standards unless an exception is granted.
 3. In applications for county burial, the financial ability of responsible relatives to provide for the burial must be considered. Responsible relatives include parents, grandparents, children, and grandchildren of the deceased.
 4. Ineligibility for county burial will result if there is one responsible relative whose income is at or in excess of 300% of the federal poverty level or if there are two or more responsible relatives whose income is at or in excess of 200% of the federal poverty level. Ineligibility will also occur if the responsible relatives fail to contact the Case Aide or fail to disclose the financial information requested.
- D. 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, embalming, body preparation, abbreviated arrangement conference at the funeral home, funeral coach to cemetery, prepare and file the death certificate, prepare and place minimum obituary in local newspaper, prepare and file 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 at the cemetery or chapel. 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. A funeral service can take place at a church or other location, but the funeral home may not charge more than \$415. 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 \$1600 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, and release of ashes to family. The family will pay \$415 to the funeral home if they choose to have a church or chapel service.

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
APRIL 1, 2010

APPROVING CHANGES TO THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES RELATING
TO BURIAL EXPENSES

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

Section 1. Cremation expenses shall be as follows:

Up to \$1600 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, and release of ashes to family. The family will pay \$415 to the funeral home if they choose to have a church or chapel service.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect April 1, 2010.