

Ministry Assistance with Burial and Cremation Costs

Ministry of **Social Development & Poverty Reduction**



Losing someone you care about is incredibly difficult, and support is available as you honour their life.

If a family member has passed away and you need help paying for their burial or cremation, you may be able to receive a burial or cremation supplement. This support can help cover necessary costs when:

- » The person's estate, spouse or parent (if the deceased was a minor) cannot pay for the expenses
- » The sponsor of a sponsored person cannot pay for the expenses
- » There are no other resources available to help

This supplement is available to all residents of British Columbia and must be pre-approved by the ministry.

Overview of assistance

To be eligible, your application must show that there are no resources available from:

- » The deceased person's estate, spouse or parent (if the deceased was a minor)
- » The sponsor of a sponsored person

What is a legal representative?

A legal representative is responsible for making decisions related to the funeral arrangements and may apply for a supplement to cover necessary costs. The legal representative is usually a relative. If a relative can't assume this role or if there is no legal representative, the ministry may make direct arrangements with the funeral home. Section 5 of the Cemetery, Interment and Funeral Services Act further explains these guidelines.

What is covered?

Eligible expenses include:

- » Funeral provider's basic service fees
- » Casket or urn costs (up to maximums)
- » Cemetery or crematorium fees
- » Burial or interment plot costs

Funeral provider's service fee

Pre-approval for funeral costs is required prior to services being provided. Items eligible under the fee include:

- » Transportation of a deceased person's body within British Columbia
- » Registration of death
- » Burial or cremation permit
- » Staff support for services and visitation
- » Counselling and coordination services, including with the:
 - Legal representative
 - Crematorium
 - Cemetery
- » Preparing a deceased person's body for burial or cremation, including:
 - Basic sanitary care
 - Casketing
- » Use of funeral facilities and equipment, including:
 - Preparation room
 - Refrigeration
 - Parking and service areas



Additional items and services not covered by the ministry, including upgrades to the casket or plot, or memorial services, may be purchased at the expense of:

- » Family members
- » Community members
- » Friends or other individuals

Burial or cremation supplements are a debt to the government and may be recovered from the estate of the deceased.

Information requirements

To establish eligibility, we need:

- » The name and address of the deceased
- » The name of the next of kin or a person who can assume responsibility
- » A request to cover burial or cremation costs



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For More Information

- » Visit our website at gov.bc.ca/sdpr
- » Call us at 1-866-866-0800
- » Access income and disability assistance services online at myselfserve.gov.bc.ca
- » Visit your local employment and assistance office