Mohave County Indigent Decedent Services Program

The Public Fiduciary’s Office for Mohave County (MCPF) is a public entity that handles the Indigent Burial/Cremation program. This program is extended to all families whose loved ones have passed away in Mohave County and who do not have the funds to pay for a private cremation or burial through a local funeral home.

All applicants are required to meet the current Federal Poverty Guidelines, set forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Resources, before becoming eligible for financial help with the burial or cremation arrangements of their loved one. The status for eligibility is determined once an application has been completed by the mortuary handling the decedent’s final arrangements. The application is sent through a rigorous verification process to determine financial status. This determination can take anywhere from 1 to 3 weeks depending on the specific circumstances unique to each indigent case.

After a family applies and is determined eligible to receive financial help from the county, there are certain requirements that must be followed from that time forward as set forth below:

1. **FUNERAL HOME SERVICES:** The funeral home is required to communicate all options available to the family when solvency appears to be an issue to allow the family the elective to go with body donation within the 72 hour criterion to further reduce potential impact to the County. In the event body donation is not an option and the funeral home vets the family and finds the family qualifies for the County Indigent Program, the funeral home will offer the application to all family members who must complete same. The completed application(s) will be faxed to the MCPF office.

2. **BURIAL SERVICES:** All qualified indigent deceased persons will be cremated as a required final disposition unless good cause exists to provide an alternate final disposition. Graveside, funeral and viewing services are not to be offered to those families who use the Indigent Decedent Services Program in lieu of making private arrangements. (After burial, the gravesite is free to visitation)

3. **DEATH CERTIFICATES:** Death certificates are issued by the Arizona Department of Vital Records. You may also contact the Mohave County Health Department to apply for a death certificate. The funeral home and MCPF office do NOT provide death certificates to the family of the deceased.

**PAYMENT:** The cost to the county for indigent cremation is $400.00 plus administrative fees of $450.00. The family of the deceased will be held responsible for repayment of that amount in full. Refusal to pay, as well as any false information submitted on the application regarding financial status, will cause the family to be subject to a collection action for twice the amount owed pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes. In the event the deceased individual was a veteran, the Veteran’s Administration may partially cover the cost.

Please contact our office in person to pick up an application and/or make further arrangements for your loved one. Our office hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.