

Interment (Burial) Rights Certificates

When you purchase a cemetery lot (grave) you don't actually own the land – the cemetery itself does. What you have purchased are the **Interment Rights** giving you the say with respect to who can be buried in the grave. This also applies to the placement of a monument and/or placing inscriptions on it.

Each cemetery has its own set of rules and regulations that must be followed by the **Interment Rights Holder**. Should the Rights Holder wish to transfer ownership or give permission for burial of another individual, the Cemetery has rules and regulations that must be followed in order to do so.

Should the original Rights Holder who purchased the interment rights be deceased, and if there are any unused graves, steps should be taken to identify the current owner.

If the Rights Holder left a will, the estate's primary beneficiary is entitled to the Interment Rights unless they are specifically willed to a specific individual (s). If the estate is divided equally between a number of individuals, they are all entitled and must all give their consent for the use of the graves. If the Rights Holder did not leave a will, then the persons entitled to the Rights are the direct next of kin following their bloodline

Regardless of how the estate is distributed, the rights must become registered in the new owner's name and evidence of this transfer provided to the Cemetery operator. Sometimes confirmation from the Estate Solicitor may be required to verify how the rights have been distributed. Difficulties often arise when family members without Interment Rights wish to arrange for a burial or an additional inscription on a memorial. For this to take place, the Interment Rights Holder can give permission by completing a **Burial Rights Assignment Form**.

If you are the registered Rights Holder and would like someone else to be responsible for overseeing future burials and memorialization, you can also assign the Rights to another individual by completing the Burial Rights Assignment Form.

Please ensure that you have confirmed all details regarding Interment Rights with the Cemetery operator prior to making any arrangements for burial or memorialization.