



OSAGE NATION
WAHZHAZHE NATIONAL CEMETERY
APPLYING FOR BURIAL RIGHTS
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Purpose and Policy

The purposes of this policy and procedure are to govern the issuance of Burial Rights in a plot and burial eligibility in the Wahzhazhe National Cemetery.

Tribal Cemetery on Restricted Lands

1. Eligibility for Burial in Cemetery on Tribal Restricted Land. Eligibility for burial in the Wahzhazhe National Cemetery shall be limited to enrolled Osage Tribal members and their Immediate Family members or Repatriated human remains.
2. Eligibility to be Issued Burial Rights in Plots. The following persons may be issued burial rights in plots.
 - a. Individual Osage Tribal Members
 - i. Must provide Photo ID.
 - ii. Must provide Osage Membership Card.
 - iii. Must be 18 years of age or older.
 - b. Incapacitated Persons over 18 years of age
 - i. Must provide guardianship documents.
 - ii. Must provide Photo ID of guardian.
 - iii. Must provide Osage Membership Card of Incapacitated Person.
 - c. Immediate Non-Osage Family Members (parent(s), spouse, and children)
 - i. Must provide one or more of the following legal documents:
 1. Revocable Trust; if deceased OR
 2. Probate Order; if deceased
 3. Decree of Adoption; Photo ID and Osage Membership of Adoptive Parent
 4. Custody Agreement/Final Order of Guardianship; Photo ID and Osage Membership of Custodial Parent
 5. Marriage License
 - ii. Must provide Photo ID
3. Number of Burial Rights in Plots that may be issued. A person or family may be issued only as many burial rights in plots as they have Immediate Family members eligible for burial in such plots.
4. Ownership of Issued Burial Rights in Plots. Ownership of an issued Burial Right in a plot does not convey title to or an ownership interest in the actual land of the plot; it merely constitutes the right to be buried in the particular location of the plot provided that the person is eligible for such burial under Section 2.
5. Costs and Expenses of Burial Rights in Plots. Each issued Burial Right in a plot will be a non-refundable \$300.00 per plot. The proceeds received from the issuance of Burial Rights in a plot shall be used for the care and improvement of the respective Cemetery.

6. Transfer of Burial Rights in Plots. Burial Rights in Plots are Non-Transferable. If the Individual Osage Tribal Member wishes to relinquish their Burial Rights a form to relinquish said rights will be available at the Osage Nation Real Estate Services Office for signature.
7. Repatriated Remains. Human remains shall be returned to the Tribe in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Plots in the Wahzhazhe National Cemetery have been reserved in **Section B, Block 2, Row Q, Plots 27-38** for Osage Nation Historic Preservation for Repatriated Remains.
8. **Application Process.** Applications for Certificate of Burial Rights and Cemetery Plat Maps are located at Osage Nation Real Estate Services (ONRES) located at 1420 West Avenue, Pawhuska, OK 74056.
 - a. Individual Osage Tribal Member must:
 - i. Select the plot(s) they would like to reserve for Burial Rights
 - ii. Fill out the application provided by ONRES
 - iii. Provide a copy of their Photo ID and Osage Nation Membership Card as well as the Photo ID and Osage Nation Membership Card for each individual listed on the application.
 - iv. Applicant must be 18 years or older to apply.
 - b. Once the Individual Osage Tribal Member has a complete application.
 - i. Certificate of Burial Rights will be sent to the Secretary of Development for approval and signature.
 - ii. ONRES will issue a Certificate of Burial Rights signed by the Secretary of Development and the applicant with the Section, Block, Row, and Plot number(s) once the application process is completed.
 - c. If the Individual Osage Tribal Member wishes to relinquish their Burial Rights.
 - i. ONRES will have a form for the Individual Osage Member to relinquish their Burial Rights in the Wahzhazhe National Cemetery.
9. **Osage Nation Rights.** The Osage Nation retains the authority to grant or refuse approval for any service(s) associated with this process.

Grave digging responsibilities:

1. The Roads Department or Tribal Works will be the only authorized departments to dig within the Osage Nation Cemetery. The Roads Department will be the primary agency for digging/covering graves with TW as back-up.*
2. RES will coordinate with Roads/TW upon receipt of an internment application on location of prospective grave by providing a schematic of location.
3. The grave will be dug, to standard, the day prior to the funeral to ensure it is readily available for the ceremony.
4. Once the funeral is complete and the family has left the cemetery Roads/TW will be responsible for filling in/covering the grave.
5. If the family wishes to fill in the grave with shovels, to any certain amount, they will be allowed to do so, **but only at their request**.

*Depending on availability of personnel and equipment the digging/covering will be coordinated between the departments to ensure that the task is performed to standard and in a timely manner.