

Columbarium Rules

Grove Cemetery, Belfast Maine. 2024 .

To be reviewed yearly .

These Rules and Regulations are adopted for the common protection of the owners of all niches and the preservation of the natural beauty of the cemetery grounds.

All owners and visitors within the cemetery, and all lots, single graves, crypts, niches, and other interment space conveyed, shall be subject thereto and to such other rules and regulations, amendments or alterations as shall be adopted by the City of Belfast, Cemetery Department and Cemetery Trustees from time to time; and the reference to these Rules and Regulations in the burial grants, contracts, or other instruments issued by the City of Belfast, Belfast Cemetery Department and Cemetery Trustees shall have the same force and effect as if they were set forth in full therein.

The cost for a niche space or spaces shall include the niche, opening and closing four times, plaque engraving and perpetual maintenance. Inurnments shall be made during normal working hours, except for those done on Saturday, Sunday and Holidays when there will be an extra charge. There will be no inurnments on the following: Memorial Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Holiday rates will be charged on Labor Day, and Veterans Day.

1. Niches are available for individuals or families to purchase.
2. No inurnments shall be permitted in any niche in the columbarium until all payments due the City of Belfast have been made. Payable to the City of Belfast, Maine, 131 Church Street. Receipts need to be shown to the Cemetery Superintendent following the purchase of the niche.
3. All inurnments must be made subject to the rules and regulations of the City of Belfast and all federal, state and local laws, ordinances, and regulations.
4. Two urns for cremains per niche will be allowed. The container for cremated remains to be inurned shall be of material approved by the City of Belfast and shall be of a size suitable for the niche. No cardboard boxes are allowed. The Superintendent or their representative shall have full authority to refuse to accept for inurnment any receptacle deemed unsuitable. Each niche measures 11" high x 11" wide x 13" deep
5. No disurnment of cremains in the columbarium will be permitted except upon written order of both the recorded owner and, as recorded on the deed, heirs of the person whose cremains are to be moved or disentombed, or upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction and except upon full compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and the Rules and Regulations of the City of Belfast. The Belfast City Attorney will create a deed for the sale of columbarium niches.

6. No inurnment in any niche in the columbarium shall be permitted except upon written order of the record owner of the rights of inurnment in such space, or if such record owner be deceased or otherwise unavailable, upon such appropriate evidence as may be required by the City of Belfast that the person whose cremains are to be inurned has been designed for inurnment by the record owner.

7. The City of Belfast shall not be liable for the identity of cremains to be inurned.

8. Niche engraving shall be limited to legal names and year of birth and death.

9. All removals and disurnments shall be done by or under the supervision of the City of Belfast personnel. The City of Belfast will exercise reasonable care in making a removal, but it assumes no liability for damage to any urn occurring in the process of making a removal. All removals need to be reported to the Cemetery Trustees.

10. Funeral decorations will be removed in seven days after the inurnment or whenever they become unsightly or at the discretion of the Superintendent or their representative. The City of Belfast and the Cemetery Department will assume no responsibility for the safekeeping of any floral memorial or container.

11. No floral memorials or other ornamentation will be attached to columbarium. The City of Belfast reserves the right to remove any such ornamentation or correct any such alteration at the expense of the owner without being deemed guilty of any manner of trespass.

12. Artificial flowers or decorations are not permitted and will be removed immediately.

13. The City of Belfast reserves the right to retain all initial funds related to any niche.

14. If the niche is destroyed or damaged for any reason, the City of Belfast and the Cemetery Department may cause any cremains inurned therein to be either promptly interred elsewhere in the cemetery or delivered on written request to the owner or representative of the niche in which they were inurned, or temporarily placed in a receiving tomb pending restoration of the niche and upon restoration re-inurned therein, in such case as the City of Belfast, Cemetery Trustees, and the Cemetery Department shall determine in view of the extent of the destruction or damage inurned remains, to the niche, the structure containing it, and columbarium itself and the advisability of restoration. Any damage is to be reported to the police and Cemetery Trustees shall receive a written police report.

Provost Monuments will be asked to provide a written estimate for repair. If no restitution is made in three months, the matter is turned over to the City Manager and the City Attorney.

15. The City of Belfast reserves the right to correct any errors made by it in granting any niche either by substituting other interment property of like kind, equal value similar location, so far as possible, or

as may be selected by the City of Belfast, or by refunding the amount of money paid on account of said purchase.

16. A niche is not a lot, nor do two or more adjacent niches constitute a lot. The owner of one or more niches is not a lot owner.

17. The grant of inurnment right in a niche gives only a right or privilege of inurnment of cremated remains, the ownership in fee to the land and the structure remaining always in the City of Belfast.