

# TACOMA MAUSOLEUM & MORTUARY

## POLICIES, PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS

The cremation, processing and disposition of the remains of the deceased shall be performed in accordance with all governing laws, and the policies, procedures and requirements of Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary.

This document describes many of the policies and requirements of Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary and is incorporated in our Authorization for Cremation & Disposition Form. We suggest you take the time to read this document carefully before executing the Authorization for Cremation & Disposition Form.

### TACOMA MAUSOLEUM & MORTUARY REQUIREMENTS FOR CREMATION

*Cremation will take place only after all the following have been met.*

- 1) Any scheduled ceremonies or viewings have been completed.
- 2) A minimum of 24 hours have transpired since the death occurred.
- 3) Civil and medical authorities have issued all required permits.
- 4) All necessary authorizations have been obtained, and no objections have been raised.
- 5) The decedent's remains have been identified by the next of kin, the Authorizing Agent or the other legal authority.
- 6) The dimensions of the decedent can be safely accommodated by the crematory equipment. This requirement is at the discretion of the operator.

### CASKETS/CONTAINERS

Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary requires either a casket or alternative (cremation) container for cremation. All caskets and alternative containers must meet the following standards: 1) be composed of materials suitable for cremation; 2) be able to be closed to provide complete covering for the human remains; 3) be resistant to leakage or spillage; 4) be sufficient for handling with ease; and 5) be able to provide protection for the health and safety of crematory personnel.

Many caskets that are comprised primarily of combustible material also contain some exterior parts, e.g., decorative handles or rails, that are not combustible and that may cause damage to the cremation equipment. Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary at its sole discretion, reserves the right to remove these noncombustible materials prior to cremation and to discard them with similar materials from other cremations and other refuse in a non-recoverable manner.

### TACOMA MAUSOLEUM & MORTUARY DOES NOT ACCEPT METAL, PLASTIC & FIBERGLASS CASKETS

Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary refuses to accept metal, plastic & fiberglass caskets as such caskets are inappropriate for the cremation equipment.

### PACEMAKERS, PROSTHESIS & RADIOACTIVE IMPLANTS

Pacemakers and prosthesis, as well as any other mechanical or radioactive devices or implants in the decedent, may create a hazardous condition when placed in the cremation chamber. It is imperative that pacemakers and radioactive devices be removed prior to cremation. If Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary is not notified about such devices and implants, and not instructed to remove them, then the person(s) authorizing the cremation will be responsible for any damages caused to Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary or crematory personnel by such devices or implants.

### THE CREMATION PROCESS

All cremations are performed individually. Exceptions are only made in the case of close relatives, and then only with the prior written instructions of the Authorizing Agent(s) and approval from the Washington State Department of Licensing, Funeral & Cemetery Division.

Cremation is performed by placing the deceased in a casket or other container and then placing the casket or container into a cremation chamber or retort, where they are subjected to intense heat and flame. During the cremation process, it may be necessary to open the cremation chamber and reposition the deceased in order to facilitate a complete and thorough cremation. Through the use of a suitable fuel, incineration of the container and contents is accomplished and all substances are consumed or driven off, except bone fragments (calcium compounds) and metal (including dental gold and silver and other nonhuman materials) as the temperature is not sufficient to consume them.

Due to the nature of the cremation process any personal possessions or valuable materials, such as dental gold or jewelry (as well as any body prosthesis or dental bridgework), that are left with the decedent and not removed from the casket or container prior to cremation will be destroyed or if not destroyed, will be disposed of by Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary. As the casket or container will not normally be opened by the crematory (to remove valuables, to allow for a final viewing or for any other reason), arrangements must be made with Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary to remove any such possessions or valuables prior to the time of cremation.

Following a cooling period, the cremated remains, which will normally weigh several pounds in the case of an average size adult, are then swept or raked from the cremation chamber. Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary makes a reasonable effort to remove all of the cremated remains from the cremation chamber, but it is impossible to remove all of them, as some dust and other residue from the process are always left behind. In addition, while every effort will be made to avoid commingling, inadvertent or incidental commingling of minute particles of cremated remains from the residue of previous cremations is a possibility.

After the cremated remains are removed from the cremation chamber, all non-combustible materials (insofar as possible), such as bridgework, and materials from the casket or container, such as hinges, latches, nails, etc., will be separated and removed from the human bone fragments by visible or magnetic selection and will be disposed of by Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary with similar materials from other cremations in a non-recoverable manner.

When the cremated remains are removed from the cremation chamber, the skeletal remains often contain recognizable bone fragments. Unless otherwise specified, after the bone fragments have been separated from the other material, they will then be mechanically processed (pulverized). This process of crushing or grinding may cause incidental commingling of the remains with the residue from the processing of previously cremated remains. These granulated particles of unidentifiable dimensions will be virtually unrecognizable as human remains.

### URNS/CONTAINERS

After the cremated remains have been processed, they will be placed in the designated urn or container. Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary will make a reasonable effort to put all of the cremated remains in the urn or container, with the exception of dust or other residue that may remain on the processing equipment. In the event the urn or container provided is insufficient to accommodate all of the cremated remains, the excess will be placed in a separate receptacle. The separate receptacle will be kept with the primary receptacle and handled according to the disposition instructions on the Authorization for Cremation & Disposition Form.

# TACOMA MAUSOLEUM & MORTUARY

## POLICIES, PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)

### URNS/CONTAINERS CONTINUED

Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary requires that all urns or containers provided be appropriate for shipping or permanent storage, and that in the case of an adult, it is recommended that the urn or container be a minimum size of 200 cubic inches. If such an urn or container is not provided for the cremated remains, then Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary will place the cremated remains in a container designed for shipping or temporary storage.

### FINAL DISPOSITION

Cremation is NOT final disposition, nor is placing the cremated remains in storage at a funeral home final disposition. The cremation process simply reduces the decedent's body to cremated remains. These cremated remains usually weigh several pounds and usually measure in excess of 150 cubic inches. Some provisions must be made for the final disposition of these cremated remains. Therefore, Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary strongly suggests that arrangements for final disposition be made at the time that the cremation arrangements are made and that the Authorization For Cremation & Disposition Form is completed.

If the final disposition of the cremated remains has not been completed within 30 days of the cremation (or if the cremated remains have not been retrieved by the party listed on page one of the Authorization For Cremation & Disposition, Section -Final Disposition, item #2), then Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary shall be authorized to arrange for the final disposition of the cremated remains in any manner permitted by law. Such final disposition may include the commingling of the cremated remains with other cremated remains, and thereafter the cremated remains of the decedent will not be recoverable. In this event, the Authorizing Agent shall be charged and agrees to pay to Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary an additional fee of \$400.00 for the expense of an appropriate final disposition, at Tacoma Mausoleum & Mortuary's convenience, as well as any legal fees and/or costs associated with securing payment.

If the option selected for final disposition includes scattering, then the cremated remains will not be recoverable. If scattering is performed in a common area, then the cremated remains may be commingled with particles of other cremated remains that have been previously scattered.