

NORTHWEST TENNESSEE CREMATORY
650 HIGH STREET
P. O. BOX 190
HUNTINGDON, TN 38344
TOLL-FREE 1-800-581-9898 LOCAL: 731-986-8283 FAX: 731-986-5288

POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

Tennessee Code Annotated 46-1-102 requires that a crematory comply with the restriction therein. 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 the Northwest Tennessee Crematory and the designated funeral home. This document describes many of the policies and requirements of Northwest Tennessee Crematory and is incorporated in our Cremation Authorization Form. Please read this document carefully before executing the Cremation Authorization Form. Please initial the Acknowledgement Receipt on the Authorization Form to signify that you have read and understand this entire document.

NORTHWEST TENNESSEE CREMATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR CREMATION

Cremation will take place only after all the following conditions have been met: 1) Any scheduled ceremonies or viewings have been completed; 2) Civil and medical authorities have issued all required permits; 3) All necessary authorizations have been obtained and no objections have been raised.

CASKET / CONTAINERS

Northwest Tennessee Crematory requires either a wood casket or an 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; 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 exterior parts, e.g. decorative handles or rails, that are not combustible and that may cause damage to the cremation equipment. Northwest Tennessee Crematory, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to remove these non-combustible materials prior to cremation and to discard them with similar materials from other cremations and other refuse in a non-recoverable manner.

PACEMAKERS, PROSTHESIS, CARDIAC DEFIBRILLATORS AND RADIOACTIVE DEVICES

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 the funeral home 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 all damages caused to Northwest Tennessee Crematory or crematory personnel by such devices or implants.

THE CREMATION PROCESS

All cremations are performed individually, unless written permission has been received from the personal representative responsible for each body.

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 non-human 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 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 Northwest Tennessee Crematory. As the casket or container will not normally be opened by Northwest Tennessee Crematory (to remove valuables, to allow for final viewing, or for any other reason), arrangements must be made with the funeral home to remove any such possessions or valuables prior to the time that the decedent is transported to the Crematory.

Following a cooling period, the cremated remains, which normally weigh several pounds in the case of an average size adult, are then swept or raked from the cremation chamber. Northwest Tennessee Crematory 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 is 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, nails, latches, etc., will be separated and removed from the human bone fragments by visible or magnetic selection and will be disposed of by Northwest Tennessee Crematory 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 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. The resulting granulated particles of unidentifiable dimensions will be virtually unrecognizable as human remains. All remains are then contained in an approved urn or container for final disposition. The entire cremated remains are then returned to the authorizing agent.

URNS / CONTAINERS

After the cremated remains have been processed, they will be placed in the designated urn or container. Northwest Tennessee Crematory 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 Cremation Authorization Form.

Northwest Tennessee Crematory 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 300 cubic inches. If such an urn or container is not provided for the cremated remains, then Northwest Tennessee Crematory will place the cremated remains in a container designed for shipping or permanent 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 provision must be made for the final disposition of these cremated remains. Therefore, Northwest Tennessee Crematory strongly suggests that arrangements for final disposition be made at the time that the cremation arrangements are made and that the Cremation Authorization Form is completed.

If the final disposition for the cremated remains has not been completed within 30 days of the cremation, then Northwest Tennessee Crematory shall be authorized to arrange for the final disposition of the cremated remains in any manner permitted by law.

If the option selected for final disposition includes scattering, then the cremated remains will not be recoverable.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

The obligation of Northwest Tennessee Crematory shall be limited to the cremation of the decedent and the disposition of the decedent's cremated remains as authorized on the Cremation Authorization Form. No warranties express or implied are made and damages shall be limited to the amount of the cremation fee paid.