

Multiple burial policy

Policy No. 8860.100.E.R

1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline how multiple burials are administered in City of Darwin managed cemeteries in accordance with the *Burial and Cremation Act 2022 NT* (the Act) and the *Burial and Cremation Regulations 2022* (the Regulations).

2 Scope

This policy applies to land declared as a cemetery by the Minister under Section 16(1) of the Act and controlled by the City of Darwin. The three cemeteries controlled by the City of Darwin are:

- Darwin General Cemetery
- Gardens Cemetery
- Palmerston (Pioneer) Cemetery.

3 Policy statement

3.1 Applying for a multiple burial

An application for a multiple burial must be submitted to the cemetery manager by filling out a burial application form.

The application must include:

- confirmation of consent from each decision maker for each deceased person buried in the burial site
- if there is an exclusive right of burial for the burial site, the application must be accompanied with a copy of the certificate of grant of exclusive right of burial which must specify the conditions for a multiple burial for the burial site.

3.2 Conditions relating to multiple burial

Applications for a multiple burial will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and are subject to the following conditions:

- multiple burials will only be permitted after the cemetery manager has approved an application
- multiple burials will be undertaken in accordance with the cemetery plan
- all human remains that are buried in a grave must be completely covered by soil that is a minimum depth of one meter at its shallowest point (see section 81(a) of the Act)
- if the depth specification above cannot be met, human remains in the grave must be completely covered by a layer of water-proof material such as stone or concrete, which is at least 50 millimetres thick and placed directly over the remains. In addition to this, the grave must be completely covered by soil that is a minimum depth of 500 millimetres at its shallowest point (see section 81(b) of the Act)
- a single burial site can be used for the burial of two or more human remains subject to the conditions specified above
- human remains that are buried in a grave can be buried in any direction, including horizontally or vertically provided that the depth of the grave meets one of the specifications listed above (see section 82(1) of the Act)
- cultural and/or religious requirements are to be advised in writing and may be permitted in line with Work Health and Safety requirements and any other cemetery policies or procedures
- any other requirements in accordance with section 82(2) of the Act.

3.3 Complaints

All complaints received concerning the operations and administration of this policy are to be managed in accordance with City of Darwin's complaints policies and/or procedural documents.

4 Definitions

A **decision maker** for a deceased person means:

- a) the executor or administrator of the estate of the deceased person; or
- b) if there is no executor or administrator of the estate of the deceased person – the senior next of kin (see definition below);
- c) in any other case – the Public Trustee.

An exclusive right of burial entitles the holder to the exclusive right (the grantee) to bury human remains at a specific plot in the cemetery.

Burial means the following:

- a) natural burial in the ground without a shroud or funerary box
- b) burial in the ground in a shroud
- c) burial in the ground in a funerary box
- d) interment in a structure
- e) any other funerary practice for burial or interment.

Version:	Decision Number:	Adoption Date:	Next Review Date:
DRAFT 1	ORD060/25	25 February 2025	25 February 2029
Responsible Officer: Tracy Bignell			

Cemetery means an area of land declared to be a cemetery by the Minister under section 16(1) of the Act.

Cemetery manager is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the responsible entity for the cemetery or the CEO's delegate.

Certificate of grant of exclusive right of burial means a certificate issued by the manager to a grantee under section 52 of the Act.

5 Legislative references

Burial and Cremation Act 2022 (NT)

Burial and Cremation Regulations 2022 (NT)

Cemeteries Act 1952 (NT)

Cemeteries Regulations 1967 (NT)

Work Health & Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011 (NT)

6 Procedures / related documents

City of Darwin Municipal Plan

2118296 Complaints Handling and Review of Decisions

Darwin General Cemetery Plan

7 Responsibility / application

This policy will be reviewed every four years, or as required.

The Executive Manager Operations is responsible for implementation and review of this policy.

All City of Darwin workplace participants are responsible for adhering to this policy.