

# Sharon Methodist Cemetery Rules

*To ensure the quality of our grounds and the safety of our visitors*

**Rule 1:** All lots, plots, and graves in the Cemetery shall be used for no other purpose than as a place of burial for the dead, and all lots, plots and graves shall be subjected to the rules and regulations established or which may hereafter be established, whether or not the same appear in the rules and regulations annexed in the deeds of such lots, plots, or graves.

**Rule 2:** No transfer or assignment of a lot, plot, or grave, or any interest therein shall be valid until such transfer or assignment has been both approved by the Sharon Methodist Cemetery Board. New registration forms need to be completed and approved.

**Rule 3:** Before a disinterment may be made, there must be obtained the written consent of the owner or owners of the lot or grave, the wife, husband, children, and parents of the deceased, and of the Cemetery, or in lieu of the foregoing, an order from the Supreme Court.

**Rule 4:** An order in writing is required from the lot or grave owner or his/her representative whenever a grave is to be opened or other work is to be done.

**Rule 5:** If any monument, effigy, enclosure, or any other structure, or any inscription be placed in or upon any lot or grave, which shall be determined by the Cemetery Committee to be offensive or improper or injurious to the appearance of the surrounding lots or grounds, the Cemetery shall have the right to enter upon such lot or grave and remove the said offensive or improper object or objects; should the owner fail to remove the objects within thirty days from the mailing of the written demand to the owner at his or her last known address.

**Rule 5a:** Whenever grave, lot or plot is so encumbered or obstructed by enclosure, post, railings or copings, as to interfere with a requested grave opening, either for burial or disinterment, said encumbrance or obstruction, and such restoration is, in the judgment of the cemetery management, possible, the cemetery shall restore said encumbrance or obstruction upon the written consent of the lot owner or duly authorized agent assume full cost of such restoration.

**Rule 6:** Owners may not plant or remove shrubs without the permission from the Cemetery Committee.

**Rule 7:** The Cemetery Committee may at any time enter upon the lots or graves to keep the same neat, and clear off the grass, weeds, wilted flowers, and debris. The Cemetery reserves the right to remove any artifacts from the grave, i.e., artificial flowers, stuffed animals, ribbons, bows, dead plantings, which are determined to be unsightly or faded and present a detriment to the natural beauty of the Cemetery. The Cemetery reserves the right to use their discretion to make this determination.

**Rule 8:** In making excavations or doing construction, the Cemetery reserves the right to use (temporarily) the adjoining lots or graves to receive such tools, derricks, and materials as are necessary to perform all work.

**Rule 9:** The Cemetery from time to time may lay out or alter such paths, roads or avenues as it deems necessary.

**Rule 10:** The Cemetery reserves the right to resurvey and subdivide unsold lots or plots or parts thereof.

**Rule 11:** No "For Sale" signs will be allowed on lots, plots, graves, or vaults. No advertisements in any form will be allowed on any work in the Cemetery; and the Cemetery reserves the right to remove therefore any such signs or advertisements.

**Rule 12:** No purchaser's title to a lot or grave shall be deemed valid until the entire amount of the purchase price shall have been paid.

**Rule 13:** The Cemetery reserves the right to prohibit the mounding, hedging, or elevating of graves.

**Rule 14:** The Cemetery may prohibit any contractor or workman from working in the Cemetery if such contractor or workmen prove to be unreliable or incapable of if he refuses to abide by the rules and regulations.

**Rule 15:** Headstones, slabs and monuments which have fallen, or which require repairing may be removed or the condition corrected by order of the Cemetery unless removed or repaired by the owner within thirty days after notification, and in case of correction by the Cemetery a charge thereof shall be placed against the plot or grave.



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**Rule 16:** No work shall be left in an improper or unfinished condition; otherwise, the same may be properly completed by the Cemetery at the expense of the lot or grave owner.

**Rule 17:** In all cases of burial the Cemetery Committee should receive and may require forty-eight hours' notice prior to the arrival of the funeral procession at the Cemetery.

**Rule 18:** Private contractors must not trespass on lots or graves other than the ones on which the work is to be done without the consent of the owners such other lots or graves in writing filed with the Cemetery.

**Rule 19:** Private contractors and others will be held responsible for any damage done to lots, graves, paths, roads, plantings, trees, structures, etc., including damage to the lawn, and shall take all necessary precautions to avoid damage.

**Rule 20:** Solicitation of business in the Cemetery is absolutely prohibited.

**Rule 21:** Contractors and others are required to interrupt their work pending a nearby funeral service or procession.

**Rule 22:** Except by written permission of the Cemetery, no person or firm shall be permitted to do gardening or other similar work on any lot or grave without first filing with the Cemetery the written authorization of the record owner and a statement or plan of the work to be done. The Cemetery reserves the right to disapprove and prohibit any work if it finds that the same may be detrimental to nearby lots or graves of the Cemetery as a whole or for other good and sufficient reasons.

**Rule 23:** Except by written permission of the Cemetery, no work shall be performed in the Cemetery or materials or tools left on lots, graves or Cemetery grounds by contractors on Sundays, legal holidays or after noon on Saturdays, nor shall any work be commenced on Saturdays that cannot be finished by noon.

**Rule 24:** The Cemetery reserves the right to prohibit enclosures on any lots, plots or graves.

**Rule 25:** The Cemetery may charge for unusual repairs necessitated by the acts of God, etc. In the event that it becomes necessary to repair or reconstruct any marble, granite, bronze or concrete work on any section or plot or crypt or niche, or any portion of portions thereof in the cemetery or columbarium, which has been damaged by the order of any military or civil authority, the Cemetery shall give a 10 day notice of the necessity for such repair to the plot owner of record.

The notice shall be given by depositing the same in the USPS mail addressed to the plot owner of record at his or her address stated on the books of the Cemetery. In the event the plot owner fails to repair the damage with a reasonable time, the Cemetery may direct that the repairs be made and charge the expense against the plot and to the plot owner of record.

**Rule 26:** The Cemetery shall take reasonable precaution to protect plot owners, and the property rights of plot owners, within the Cemetery, from loss or damage; but it distinctly disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control, and especially from damage caused by the elements, an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasions, insurrections, riots, or order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral, other than as herein provided.

**Rule 27:** Except by written permission of the Cemetery, no one may take photographs or record any video within the Cemetery at any time.

**Rule 28:** Fresh flowers, and any items left in front of headstones and columbarium will be removed within ten days. The Cemetery reserves the right to remove any unsightly items at our discretion.

**Rule 29:** Artificial flowers are to be placed in a secure vase. Artificial flowers that are faded or broken apart will be removed by the cemetery caretakers without notification.

**Rule 30:** The Cemetery prohibits any plaques, stickers, or other items to be affixed to the crypt or niche front except for Cemetery-approved emblems or cameos. Any costs incurred from damage caused by affixing unapproved items on the crypt or niche front is the responsibility of the owner(s).

**Rule 31:** Lighting fires in and around the cemetery is strictly prohibited.

**Rule 32:** The Cemetery prohibits the burial of pet cremated remains.

**Rule 33:** The Cemetery may, from time to time, revise these Rules and Regulations and make reasonable administration and conduct of the Cemetery.



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**Rule 34:** The engraving, font and sizing are to be uniform to match other niches in the columbarium.

**Rule 35:** The engraving on the columbarium must be completed within 60 days of inurnment.

**Rule 36:** For cemetery plots, a permanent monument / headstone must be installed within 6 months of internment.

*Revised and effective April 28, 2024*