

Additional Information

Anyone can apply for this service on behalf of the deceased. If there is a living legal spouse, the responsibility and the authority generally lies with the spouse, but they are not legally responsible.

Gathering the required information frequently takes several weeks. Any/All information sent to the Senior Social Worker may reduce the time needed.

Division of Human Services Goal

To enter successful partnerships with individuals and/or families to access resources which result in increased self-esteem, greater economic stability and highest level of self-sufficiency.

Description

Human Services is a Division within the Community Services Department that assists eligible individuals and/or families to attain Economic Stability and Self-Sufficiency through Case Management services and provision of Support Services. The Support Services and Case Management services are planned and coordinated through an Individual Service Plan, which lists goals, objectives, services and expected time frame.

**For further information
contact:**

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DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Indigent Burial / Cremation
Services**

Purpose

To provide dignified funeral and burial/cremation services to Palm Beach County residents or individuals who expire in Palm Beach County. Services are provided to those individuals when it has been established that no funding source exists to meet the costs of the basic service consistent with the standards of the community or the deceased body is unclaimed as identified by the Medical Examiner's Office.

Services Provided

- Adult / Infant Burial
- Adult / Infant Cremation

Basic Eligibility Conditions

- Financial Need
- Service Need
- Palm Beach County residency and legal status
- Expired in Palm Beach County

Common Misconceptions/Facts

- Misconception:** That the Indigent Burial/Cremation (IB/C) Service is part of HRS/DCF (Dept of Children and Families).
Fact: The IB/C Program is part of Palm Beach County Division of Human Services as required by Florida Statute 245.07
- Misconception:** Medicaid recipients are automatically eligible.
Fact: Income eligibility is based on the last 3 months income and must fall within the 110% Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Misconception:** The County will pay the difference if there is an insurance policy or the family has provided a portion of the cost of burial/cremation services.
Fact: If there are any insurance policies or money has been exchanged between the family and the funeral home, the County will not assist.
- Misconception:** The County provides transportation for families.
Fact: No transportation is provided to the families. Only a hearse is provided for the deceased.
- Misconception:** Nursing homes are responsible for their residents.
Fact: Families are responsible unless the deceased is unclaimed, then the responsibility rests with the County after eligibility has been determined for the families.
- Misconception:** Family members of veterans are entitled to up to \$450.00
Fact: Only the surviving spouse is eligible for this benefit.
- Misconception:** A full service that includes chapel or church services is provided.
Fact: A grave-side service with viewing is provided. However donated services by the Funeral Home are accepted.
- Misconception:** Families are allowed to select a casket.
Fact: The County provides a cloth covered flat top wooden casket.
- Misconception:** Cremation can be authorized by anyone.
Fact: Only a family member or legally authorized person can sign the cremation authorization.
- Misconception:** County services are available any day of the week.
Fact: Services are only provided Monday through Friday.
- Misconception:** Services are available for cremations.
Fact: No services are available, direct cremations only. However, donated services by the Funeral Home are accepted.
- Misconception:** Families are allowed to select the cemetery.
Fact: Only County contracted cemeteries are used.