

BURIAL ASSISTANCE

Policy

It is the policy and law of the Osage Nation to ease the financial burden and provide support to Osage families upon the death of a member of the Osage Nation. This policy follows the intent and purpose of ONCA 11-121 passed by the Osage Nation Congress on September 27, 2011 and all subsequent amendments. The Act prioritized payment by Constituent Services through the Burial Assistance fund to members of the Osage Nation applying for assistance. Osage Nation law supersedes any conflicts or discrepancies found in this policy.

Legally enrolled members of the Osage Nation are eligible for up to \$5,000 of assistance regarding burial expenses including:

- Payment for the actual cost of the burial or cremation;
- Payment of, or reimbursement for advance payment, costs for burial or cremation services;
- Payment of, or reimbursement for, headstones, cemetery monuments or markers, or cremation urns;
- Payment of, or reimbursement for, verified costs incurred for last rites, flowers, receptions, meals, and/or blankets not to exceed the amount remaining after payment of other items in this section have been paid for.

Applications are considered complete when all required and requested documentation has been provided by the applicant. Only complete applications will be processed for payment.

The Osage Nation Burial Assistance service may not provide services for a deceased Osage with only a CDIB at the time of death. All of the Nation's tribally funded services, and many of its federally funded services, require a legally issued Osage Nation membership number to be verified through the Membership Department.

The Osage Nation Burial Assistance Service may not reimburse headright and/or irrevocable trust account. We may not reimburse a surviving relative whose name is not on the receipt/invoice nor process payment for a deceased Osage member. For the same reasons, the Osage Nation Burial Assistance Service may not reimburse burial/funeral expenses paid by the personal insurance of the deceased Osage member.

Alcoholic beverages on any receipt will be deducted from the amount to be paid/reimbursed prior to processing and check request from the Osage Nation Treasury.

Application Procedure

- Submit a completed Burial Assistance Application within sixty (60) days of the time of death
- Submit all supporting documentation within ninety (90) days of the time of death:
 - Copy of Osage Membership Card of the deceased
 - Copy of death certificate
 - Itemized receipts for services
 - Completed W-9 for the individual or vendor/business
 - Any/all other requested documentation

Advance Payment Reimbursement Procedure

For Reimbursement of advance payment for funeral expenses, the following are needed:

- Completed Burial Assistance Application with all required documentation
- Itemized receipts for advance payment of burial or cremation services
- Itemized receipts for advance payment of headstones, cemetery monuments, markers, or cremation urns
- Itemized receipts for advance payment of any of the following; Last rites, Flowers, Receptions, Funeral feast, Blankets

Payment Procedure

- Checks will be mailed directly to vendors within fifteen (15) days of completed application
- Checks will be mailed directly to applicant for reimbursement of advance payments after application and all supporting documentation has been verified
- Notice of approval/denial of benefit will be mailed to the individual/family member listed on Section 1 of application

Definitions

Advance payment: An out of pocket payment made by the Osage member, spouse, parent, family member and/or friend for burial expenses.

Itemized Receipt: A detailed list of the individual items or services for funeral/burial services; and can be verified through the Constituent Services Office with name of vendor, telephone number or address.