



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Billing Code 8320-01

Reimbursement for Caskets and Urns for Burial of Unclaimed Remains in a National Cemetery

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is updating the monetary reimbursement rates for caskets and urns purchased for the interment in a VA national cemetery of Veterans who die with no known next of kin and where there are insufficient resources for furnishing a burial container. The purpose of this notice is to notify interested parties of the rates that will apply to reimbursement claims that occur during calendar year (CY) 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tamula Jones, Budget Operations and Field Support Division, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Telephone: 202-461-6688 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title 38, United States Code, Section 2306(f) authorizes VA National Cemetery Administration to furnish a casket or urn for interment in a VA national cemetery of the unclaimed remains of Veterans for whom VA cannot identify a next of kin and determines that sufficient financial resources for the furnishing of a casket or urn for burial are not available. VA implemented regulations to administer

this authority as a reimbursement benefit in Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 38.628.

Reimbursement for a claim received in any CY will not exceed the average cost of a 20-gauge metal casket or a durable plastic urn during the fiscal year (FY) preceding the CY of the claim. Average costs are determined by market analysis for 20-gauge metal caskets, designed to contain human remains, with a gasketed seal, and external rails or handles. The same analysis is completed for durable plastic urns, designed to contain cremated human remains, which include a secure closure to contain the cremated remains.

Using this method of computation, in FY 2015, the average costs for caskets were determined to be \$2,421.00, and \$244.00 for urns. Accordingly, the reimbursement rates payable for qualifying interments occurring during CY 2016 is \$2,421.00 for caskets and \$244 for urns.

Request approval to publish in the Federal Register, VA's notice on the rates of reimbursement for caskets and urns for CY2016.

Signing Authority

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Robert L. Nabors II, Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on January 5, 2016 for publication.

Dated: January 5, 2016

Michael Shores,
Chief Impact Analyst,
Office of Regulation Policy & Management,
Office of the General Counsel,
Department of Veterans Affairs.

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