



C O N G R E G A T I O N  
O H E V S H A L O M  
CONNECTING, DISCOVERING, AND CELEBRATING JUDAISM IN CENTRAL FLORIDA SINCE 1918

## **CEMETERY**

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS CONTRACT**

*(Revised as of July 1, 2021 and prospectively supersedes all prior rules and regulations.)*

**WHO MAY BE BURIED:** The COS Cemetery, being sacred, is for burial of people of the Jewish faith only (both members and non-members of COS). However, Section K has been sectioned off from the rest of the cemetery and is available for those who are intermarried. Our rules permit only those who are Jewish (both members of COS and non-members) to be buried in the other sections. Customarily, a wife is buried on the left side of her husband, though this is not mandatory.

**CASKETS:** Plain wooden kosher caskets are traditional.

**BURIALS:** Quality Vaults (407-656-8781) shall be solely responsible for marking, opening and closing of graves. Prior to any burial in the COS Cemetery, funeral directors must contact Quality Vaults to make arrangements for grave marking, opening and closing of graves. Burials may only take place after a lot is paid for in full. Concrete vaults are required for all interments of caskets in the cemetery. Funeral directors must be provided with a copy of the original certificate of ownership (Deed) confirming that the lot has been paid for in full before interment. If a Deed cannot be produced, the funeral director must contact the COS office at (407) 298-4650 to confirm payment status and/or make arrangements for final payment.

**FUNERAL SERVICES:** No funeral may take place at the COS Cemetery without first advising the COS Rabbi at (407) 298-4650, Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. If a COS Rabbi is requested to perform a funeral service, there is no charge to COS members; however, a gratuity is traditional. The fee for a COS Rabbi to perform non-member funerals is \$500.00; however, a COS Rabbi may only be used if the Community Rabbi from Jewish Family Services is unavailable. Only members of the Greater Orlando Board of Rabbis have permission to perform a funeral service in the COS Cemetery. A Rabbi is required at every funeral service and interment on the Cemetery. The COS Rabbi must give his approval before any other Rabbi performs a funeral service. No religious service that is non-Jewish may take place on the COS Cemetery. For intermarried couples who are to be buried in Section K, all religious funeral services for the non-Jewish spouse are to take place at a funeral home off of the cemetery premises. Burial of the non-Jewish spouse in section K will take place without any religious service at the cemetery and the burial must be supervised by a licensed funeral director. Graveside funeral services should take place at the Ohev Pavilion. The usage fee for members is \$250 and non-member fee is \$400.

**MONUMENTS:** All graves must be marked by Quality Vaults, Inc., (407) 656-8781, prior to placement of monuments. Monument placement may only take place after a lot is paid for in full. When a double headstone is to be erected, both grave sites must be paid in full before the placement of the headstone. All monuments shall be placed so that they face the driveway. Monuments may be for one or two people buried side by side. The width of the headstone itself may vary up to 40 inches for a single and up to 60 inches for a double. A base upon which the monument sits may be up to 52” wide for a single and up to 72” wide for a double. The height of the headstone itself should not exceed 48 inches regardless of the width. All headstones must be on a base. **All monuments must be approved by the COS Rabbi and by the COS Cemetery Committee, in writing, prior to installation on the cemetery.** Homemade monuments of any kind are not allowed. They must be granite and professionally made and installed. **Only Jewish religious symbols may appear on any of the monuments throughout the cemetery, including Section K, reserved for intermarried couples.**

**MONUMENTS CONTINUED:** Except for the Estate Section, ground slabs, curbs, foot markers and coping are no longer permitted due to maintenance problems with mowers. Maintenance of the monument is the responsibility of the family of the deceased. Should the monument sink sideways into the ground or lean forward or backward, the family should contact the company that sold them the monument, or as an alternative, contact the COS office. The cemetery committee can arrange to have the monument straightened. However, it is the financial responsibility of the family of the deceased for all costs associated with maintaining the monument. Monument cleaning is available for a \$36 donation to the cemetery fund.

**UNVEILING:** Traditionally, an unveiling is held between the sixth and twelfth month after interment. Contact the company who sold you the marker to cover the monument. There is no charge to COS members requesting a Rabbi's services, however a gratuity is traditional.

**LANDSCAPING:** Arrangements for planting trees or grass may be made by calling the COS office. The minimum donation for any grass planting is \$50; tree planting is \$100, which does not include the cost of the item. COS cannot extend guarantees on the trees other than what is offered by the supplier (generally for a period of one month). If a tree dies within the guarantee period, the item will be replaced at no additional charge. Private planting of any kind is prohibited without prior approval. Plants or flowers placed on the COS cemetery without permission of the cemetery committee will be removed. There are no exceptions to this policy.

**CREMATION POLICY:** Ashes may be interred in a Jewish cemetery; however, this should be done privately without the presence of a Rabbi. Urns made of wood are preferred.

**LOT PRICES:** \$2,600.00 per lot (members in good standing with all financial obligations to COS), \$3,200.00 per lot (non-member). Prices are subject to change.

**CREMATIONS:** Prices are the same as lot prices; however, two cremains may be buried in one lot. If this is the desire of the purchaser:

1. This must be specified and written on the contract at the time of the initial purchase.
  - a. The first interment pays \$2,600 per lot. Non-member prices are \$3,200 per lot.
  - b. The second interment pays half of the lot prices \$1,300 (member) and \$1,600 (non-member).

**OTHER:** COS members in good standing with all financial obligation to COS may purchase lots at member prices for their immediate family (parents, children and siblings) even if the family members are non-members. When lots are purchased for family members, the member is responsible for all payments.

If financial arrangements are required, terms are available to reserve lots at no additional costs. A down payment of 25% is required at the time of purchase. The remaining balance will be due in installments over a period not to exceed three years. If, after three years a lot is not paid-in-full, COS will attempt to contact the purchaser to collect the remaining balance. After the last day of the three year period, COS will notify the purchaser three times in writing. If COS is unable to contact the purchaser within 30 days, the lot will be deemed abandoned and will be released for re-sale. There will be no refund if a lot has been released.

***Deed Certificates for a cemetery lot are issued only upon payment in-full.***

***COS Cemetery does not offer refunds on lots.*** Lots may be donated back to the COS cemetery for a tax write-off at the current market value. The COS office can resell lots on a consignment basis for a fee of 50% of the sale amount. Lots may be resold or gifted by owners; however, original Deed Certificates on sold, gifted or transferred lots must be returned to the COS office to be voided before a new one will be issued. The fee for a Deed Certificate void/transfer is \$100.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE FEES:** The general administrative fee for Congregation Ohev Shalom members is \$275 per interment. Non-member prices are \$400 per interment. The fee is the same for burials in caskets and cremains. This fee will be collected by the funeral home at time of interment and will be allocated to COS for administrative costs associated with the funeral and landscape upkeep and maintenance. **Maintenance of monuments is the responsibility of the family of the deceased and is not covered by this general administrative fee.**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Questions regarding the cemetery, funeral homes, monument sources, etc., may be directed to the COS Cemetery Committee by calling the COS office. Please provide your funeral home with a copy of this contract and your Deed when meeting with them. Visitors to the cemetery are always welcome.

## **Special Rules for the Estate Section**

**BURIALS:** Only members of the Jewish faith, as determined by the Rabbi, may be buried in the Estate Section.

**MONUMENTS:** Above ground Mausoleums, properly constructed with footers and a foundation strong enough to support the weight of the structure, are permitted exclusively in the Estate Section. **Final approval of any and all proposed structures, their sizes, and designs, must be approved, in writing, by the Rabbi and the Cemetery Committee prior to construction.** Headstones, footstones, full grave above ground covers, or other markers made of Granite are permitted.

**GRAVES:** The actual number of graves allowed for burial within the Estate Section Plot selected, will be determined based upon the available space, as measured and determined by Quality Vaults. A layout of gravesites within the Estate Section Plot will be prepared, in writing, after the purchase of the Plot. The layout will be determined jointly by the family, the Rabbi, Cemetery Committee and Quality Vaults.

**OTHER STRUCTURES:** Within the Estate Section Plot, the family may, at their cost, **and subject to approval, in writing, of the Rabbi and Cemetery Committee,** erect additional enhancements such as landscaping, benches, platforms, edging around the perimeter, or other structures that are in keeping with Jewish tradition and the existing customs of the Cemetery.

**UPKEEP:** Any and all structures and improvements made within the Estate Section Plot must be maintained by the family at their cost. The Cemetery will cut the grass on a weekly basis, and trim the border shrubs, as needed. Any items or structures within the Plot must be cleaned and maintained by the family. However, arrangements for upkeep may be contracted to the Cemetery Committee, for a fee to be negotiated between the family and the Cemetery Committee, which shall be in writing.

