

Hebrew Cemetery
Congregation Beth Israel
Charlottesville, Virginia

Policy on Whole Body Burials and Cremains

Background: The Hebrew Cemetery of Charlottesville, Virginia is owned and managed by Congregation Beth Israel (CBI). The cemetery was established in 1870 with the first burial in 1869. Jewish tradition holds that one should be buried and not cremated. However, as customs and tradition have changed, many Jews are now being cremated. As the only synagogue in Charlottesville, CBI strives to not only meet the needs of its members, but also serve all Jews in the community. The following rules establish the cemetery policy on whole body and cremains burials.

1. Members of the Jewish faith who are either born Jewish (by either matrilineal or patrilineal descent, or converted to Judaism during their lifetimes, and the spouses and children of such persons), parent, in-law, child, brother, sister, life partner may be buried in Hebrew Cemetery.
2. Each plot can be used for no more than one whole body casket, or no more than two cremains, or no more than one casket and one cremains.
3. Pricing of a plot is set by the Board of Directors of CBI, which reserves the right to set and change prices periodically. The price of a plot as of 26 March 2022 for members is \$2,500 for members and \$7,000 for non-members. The price of a plot must be paid BEFORE interment.
4. Should the plot be used for two cremains, or one whole body and one cremains, before the time of the second cremains are interred in the grave, a onetime perpetual fee of \$500 will be charged to open the grave a second time (this is payable to CBI and is in addition to any funeral home charge). If the two cremains, or the whole body and the cremains, are placed in the grave at the same time, this additional perpetual fee will not be required.
5. Should the plot be used for a whole body (casket) burial and cremains in the same plot, the casket must be placed in the grave BEFORE the vessel holding the cremains.
6. In the case of a whole body (casket) and cremains in one plot, the person who has the whole body (casket) should give permission in writing that cremains may be interred-with the deceased. Should the whole body deceased not give permission, the cremains will only be placed in the grave after written permission is given by the executor of the estate.

Revised July 28, 2022.