

MICHIGAN VETERANS FACILITY AUTHORITY

General

PURPOSE

This document has been prepared for use by the MVFA and is intended for internal use only. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the interment of members in the MVH Cemetery in Grand Rapids.

SCOPE

All persons serving as members of the MVFA Board and MVH staff acting in the interest of the MVFA shall perform their duties in a manner that is consistent with this policy and other Michigan statutes which may apply.

DEFINITIONS

Familial Relationship describes a person with a spousal or immediate family relationship to the member.

Immediate family member means parent, child, or sibling.

STANDARDS

Michigan Veterans' Facility Authority Act (PA 560 of 2016), MCL 36.101, et seq.

GUIDELINES

1. Eligibility for Interment

- a. Interment in the Michigan Veteran Homes cemetery is available to any person who was a member of an MVH home at the time of his or her death.
- b. One dependent spouse or other immediate family member, when cremated, is permitted to be placed in the same grave or niche as the deceased MVH member.
 - i. Veterans or other persons without a familial relationship are not eligible for burial at the MVH cemetery.
 - ii. Next of kin must provide a death certificate and cremation permit for the family member.
 - iii. Next of kin is responsible for the costs of opening and closing the grave and the memorial service. MVH staff will open the grave, place the deceased, and close the grave. MVH staff will conduct a memorial if so desired.
 - iv. An interment decision appeal may be filed on behalf of a person with an existing familial relationship to a current or deceased member of the homes, see Procedures, below.

2. Cemetery Markers and Use

- a. MVH staff will purchase, engrave, and place a Veterans Administration (VA) marker for a deceased MVH member.
- b. Next of kin are responsible for purchasing and engraving the marker for the deceased, eligible family member, which must be the same type and style as that of the MVH member. The marker will be placed by MVH staff. If the deceased family member is a veteran, the VA may provide the marker. If the MVH member's marker is the upright style, the engraving for the family member will be on the back of the existing marker. Marker guidelines are available at the VA website referenced below.
- c. Flowers placed in the cemetery must comply with posted MVH requirements. Except for these flowers and for MVH flag displays, no other items or materials are permitted to be displayed at a grave site.



INTERMENT IN MVH CEMETERY

SECTION
MVFA-GEN

POLICY #
021

PROCEDURES

Procedure for Interment Decision Appeals

1. A party may appeal an interment decision on behalf of a deceased individual with an existing familial relationship to a current or deceased member of an MVH home. Veterans and other individuals do not have standing to appeal if there is no familial relationship between an MVH member and the deceased.
2. To file an appeal, the party must provide written notice to the Chair of the MVFA, at 2950 Monroe Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505. The notice must include:
 - a. The date.
 - b. The name, address, and contact information of the person providing notice.
 - c. The name of the affected party and the nature of their familial relationship with a current or deceased member of an MVH home.
 - d. The name of the current or deceased member of an MVH home and other identifying information, such as date of birth, date of death, city of residence, and other information available to help us identify the member.
 - e. The basis for the appeal of the interment decision and any other relevant information.
 - f. All documents that support the appeal.
3. MVH staff will respond to the notice within 10 business days of receipt to discuss the details of the appeals process.
4. MVH staff will convene the MVFA Appeals Board to consider the appeal. The MVFA Appeals Board will review the basis for the appeal and all documents that support the appeal. It will also review the basis for MVH's interment decision. The Board will consider whether the relationship between the MVH member and the affected party is sufficient to meet this policy and whether the appeal should be granted or rejected.
5. A decision of the Appeals Board is considered to be the decision of the MVFA Board and may be appealed to the circuit court as provided by law. The MVFA Board may review and alter any decision of the Appeals Board.

IMPLEMENTATION

None

REFERENCES

Michigan Veterans' Facility Authority Act, Act 560 of 2016, Sec 6b

Illustrations of Standard Government Headstones and Markers, found at <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-40-1330/>

Michigan Veterans Facility Authority Board Member's Certification of Agreement

This policy, "**MVFA-GEN 021 – Interment in MVH Cemetery**," was adopted by the MVFA Board of Directors on **July 21, 2026**, at a scheduled MVFA Board Meeting with a quorum present. This policy will be reviewed annually by the MVFA Board of Directors.

ANNUAL REVIEW

YEAR	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Review Date								