



Market Deeping Town Council
Transfer of Grave Ownership Policy

Transfer of grave ownership

The Exclusive Rights of Burial (also known as the Grant or Deed) for the existing grave should be transferred upon the death of a registered owner.

It is important, in the interests of the family, to resolve ownership issues as soon as possible rather than wait until you need to arrange a funeral/further funeral, as the process may take some time.

Ownership is the families' responsibility and we cannot accept a funeral booking or authorise a memorial application until ownership has been confirmed.

Transfer of ownership from deceased registered owner

If the owner of the Exclusive Rights of Burial of a grave dies, they have the automatic right to be buried or have their ashes interred in the grave. After this the rights become part of the deceased's estate and may be left in a will, or assigned by their executors to someone else.

If the rights are not specifically mentioned in the will, they will form part of the 'residue' of the will, usually worded as 'and all my other worldly goods' at the end of the will. Whoever inherits the rights will need to contact the Burials Officer to arrange a transfer of ownership before the grave can be re-opened again. A copy of the will and/or grant of probate must be provided as legal proof of transfer before the transfer can be processed.

Memorials

It is not possible to place a new memorial or alter an existing memorial without the instruction and permission of a new owner (even if the memorial relates to the previous registered owner), as someone must be responsible for the memorial going forward.