


POLICY NUMBER 510.300

TITLE Interment, Disinterment, Re-interment

EFFECTIVE DATE:	March 1, 2023
AUTHORITY:	General authority of the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs, hereinafter referred to as WDVA, to manage and direct the Agency, RCW 43.60A.040, .050, and .060.
PURPOSE:	To provide information on the interment, disinterment, or re-interment of remains in the Washington State Veterans Cemetery – Medical Lake, hereafter referred to as Cemetery.
APPLICABILITY:	All WDVA employees, visitors or anyone entering the cemetery grounds.
DEFINITIONS:	<p>Applicant. family, applicant, or estate</p> <p>Disinterment. The removal of human remains from their place of interment.</p> <p>Interment. The disposition of human remains in a grave plot or in a location designated by WDVA as a Veterans Cemetery.</p> <p>Re-interment. The interment of previously interred human remains.</p> <p>Qualified Person. A person who satisfies the requirements for eligibility for interment in national cemeteries found in 38 CFR 38.620 and 38 U.S.C. Section 2402 and is not prohibited from being interred by 38 U.S.C. § 2411 or 38 CFR 39.5.</p>
POLICY:	<p>I. INTERMENT</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Remains. Remains shall be delivered to the cemetery in a casket or, if cremated, in a recoverable container. If cremains will be placed in a location other than a grave plot, the container shall not exceed nine (9) inches in width, thirteen (12) inches in height, and nine (10) inches in depth.</p>

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS <i>"Serving Those Who Served"</i> 	REVISION DATE 03/01/2023	PAGE NUMBER 2 of 3	POLICY NUMBER WDVA 510.300
	Interment, Disinterment, Re-interment POLICY		

b. **Committal Services.** The cemetery does not conduct graveside services. Committal services are scheduled and conducted in a committal shelter or other designated location to ensure each family receives the same opportunity to say farewell to their loved one in a solemn and dignified place. The cemetery does not provide facilities for open casket viewing. Arrangements for and expenses associated with committal services shall be the responsibility of the family, applicant, or estate. Cemetery staff may assist the applicant in requesting military funeral honors.

c. **Relocation.** After initial placement, the cemetery will only relocate remains in situations that require an urn be removed from its placement location, in order to be united with a qualifying spouse or child in a crypt gravesite.

Applicants must inform cemetery staff in cases where the deceased family member is being cremated and their surviving spouse has opted for full body casketed burial. In these situations, the cremated family member must be placed in a columbarium niche for future recovery purposes.

II. **DISINTERMENT AND REINTERMENT.**

Disinterment. Interments are intended to be permanent and final. However, disinterment may be allowed for cogent and compelling reasons. Immediate family members interested in disinterring a loved one should contact the cemetery. Applications will only be accepted on a completed [VA Form 40-4970 Request for Disinterment](#). Ground burials will require the services of a licensed funeral director and their support staff. The applicant is responsible for any damage to surrounding graves, headstones, or markers damaged as a result of a disinterment.

WDVA cannot guarantee the condition of a casket or urn upon disinterment. Only the Cemetery Director may approve disinterment. The cemetery will notify the applicant of a determination in writing. If approved, a disinterment permit issued by the local health district is required. Payment for the permit is

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS <i>"Serving Those Who Served"</i>	REVISION DATE 03/01/2023	PAGE NUMBER 3 of 3	POLICY NUMBER WDVA 510.300
	Interment, Disinterment, Re-interment POLICY		

the applicant's responsibility. All miscellaneous expenses which include decedent's transportation, storage, or the replacement of a casket or urn are also the applicant's responsibility.

The Cemetery Director shall comply with any court ordered disinterment that is within the court's jurisdiction.

Re-interment. Notify cemetery staff of intent to disinter from another cemetery for reinterment at the State Veterans Cemetery to initiate communication between both cemeteries.

III. MONETARY FEES FOR INTERMENT, DISINTERMENT, AND REINTERMENT


- a. **Interment.** WDVA shall apply for the applicable VA plot allowance for each qualifying veteran.
- b. **Disinterment.** The cemetery shall collect an amount equal to the current VA plot allowance from the applicant.
- c. **Re-interment.** The cemetery shall collect an amount equal to the applicable VA reimbursement for opening and closing an interment plot allowance. The applicant is responsible for this payment if the VA plot allowance was previously paid out to either a family member or another State Cemetery.

REVIEW: This policy shall be reviewed every five years and updated as necessary.

REFERENCES: 38 CFR 38.620; 38 U.S.C. Section 2402; 38 U.S.C. § 2411; 38 U.S.C. 501, 2408; 38 CFR 39.5; [RCW 72.36.115](#); [RCW 41.04.007](#)

SUPERSESSION None

ATTACHMENTS: [VA Form 40-4970 Request for Disinterment](#)


David Puente, Jr., Director

March 1, 2023
Date