

Rights to Burial

What does it mean?



This brochure is published by the Thames-Coromandel District Council and is intended as general information only. It is not intended as a legal document and may not be applicable in all circumstances.

In simple terms when you purchase a plot you are granted the rights to either use the plot for your own burial or to give permission for someone else to be buried in the plot.

It is best to indicate who is allowed to be buried in the plot at the time you purchase it. This can avoid family disputes at a later date.

It is not like a real estate sale meaning that you don't own the 'land' area (plot) and are not able to plant vegetation or gardens on the plot.

Our Council does not permit any other structures on the plots, including landscaping materials, fencing, solar lights, and other tributes of any nature. These items create issues for maintenance staff looking after our cemeteries and can cause safety concerns for visitors to our cemeteries.

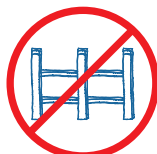
You are welcome to place small items on the concrete berms provided these are not glass or other breakable items. These can remain until family are ready to have a memorial installed.

tcdc.govt.nz/memorialoptions

Please be considerate when placing items not to disturb neighbouring graves.

As the plot purchaser/s or burial rights holder, you have the authority to apply to install a memorial.

White wooden temporary markers can be left at the head of the grave but will be removed and left on the concrete berm if they fall into a state of disrepair.



Once the fees have been paid in full for a plot, we issue a Plot Reservation Certificate.

This is an important document, it is advisable to give a copy to a member/s of your family and your Lawyer/Solicitor, this way your family will be aware of your plot purchase before you pass away.

Your rights to use the plot last for 60 years, if it has not been used after this time your rights to use the plot lapse automatically and we may then make the plot available again.

You may approach us to extend the burial rights if you still wish to use the plot in the future. A charge may be apply to do this.

Once you pass away and are buried in the plot your rights to burial do not pass to anyone else and plots do not become "family" plots as a right.

If others want to be buried in the same plot they will have to provide evidence of having rights of burial, usually by way of being the Executor/s or Trustee/s of the original plot purchaser or having inherited the rights to use the plot. A statutory declaration will be asked for in this instance.

If evidence cannot be supplied we may consider requests to inter provided all living close family members agree.

Close family include: grandparents, parents, siblings, children, spouses, civil union partners, or de facto partners.

You may transfer your rights to other close family members or choose to sell your burial rights back to us.

We will refund the amount of money that you paid when you purchased the plot originally.

Please contact our Customer Services staff if you would like any further information. Call us on 07 868 0200 or e-mail at customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz

You can find forms to transfer or sell back Rights to Burial at **tcdc.govt.nz/cemetery**