



34970 McMurtrey Ave.
Bakersfield, California 93308

CORONER SECTION

INDIGENT CREMATIONS

Who can apply?

Only the legal next-of-kin may request a county cremation as defined by Health and Safety Code 7100.

For example: A man is married at the time of his death. If he is married, the legal next-of-kin is his spouse. If divorced or never married, it will be his adult children. If he has no adult children, then it will be his parents. If his parents are deceased, then it will be his sibling(s).

Who qualifies?

The legal next-of-kin must show proof of income, upon request. The decedent must be a Kern County resident.

How do I apply?

Call our office between the hours of 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. When prompted, press 6 for the County Cremation Line. Please leave a message detailing your name, phone number and decedent's name and/or case number. Coroner staff will return your call.

What does it cost?

After reviewing the County Cremation application, a determination will be made if the application qualifies for an indigent cremation. If so, we will immediately notify legal next-of-kin of eligibility. If eligible, the cost of County Cremation will be provided. If a request for shipment of cremated remains is requested, an additional fee will be required.

Do I have to pay before cremation occurs?

Yes. Cremation charges are paid to the Kern County Sheriff-Coroner. Valid forms of payment are cash, check, cashier's check or money order. Please make payment payable to the Kern County Sheriff's Office.

How long does it take?

A cremation is not processed until all paperwork is completed and payment is received. If legal next-of-kin includes siblings, paperwork will not be processed until the majority of siblings show financial proof of income. If they all qualify, and the majority consent to the county cremation, the paperwork will be approved. The average length of time regardless of legal next-of-kin, is several weeks. The deceased is in the care of the Kern County Sheriff-Coroner facility until cremation occurs.

Where do I pick up the cremated remains?

Union Cemetery will complete the cremation. If the family requests a final disposition at a residence, the cremated remains may be picked up at Union Cemetery upon completion of cremation. Release of remains is coordinated directly with Union Cemetery. Their phone number is (661) 321-9648. Union Cemetery is located at 730 Potomac Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93307. Note: If cremated remains are not picked up within 90 days by legal Next of Kin, the remains will be interred at Union Cemetery.

If shipment of remains outside of the metro Bakersfield area is requested, the cremated remains will be shipped Priority Express Mail via the United States Postal Services. No P.O. Box delivery available; requires a mailing address. Shipping fees are based on weight and distance determined by the United States Postal Service and range from \$50 to \$160. The Coroner Section will contact you after cremation and provide you with the cost of shipping. If shipping fees are not received within 30 days after notification of the cost, the cremated remains will be interred at Union Cemetery.

If my loved one is a veteran, can they go to Bakersfield National Cemetery?

Yes, deceased veterans that received a county cremation can be interred at Bakersfield National Cemetery upon verification of service and approval by the National Cemetery Administration. Once approved, the coroner's office will deliver the cremains for interment at Bakersfield National Cemetery.

Should a family wish to have a service, they will need to speak directly with Bakersfield National Cemetery to schedule. Their phone number is (661) 867-2250. Bakersfield National Cemetery is located at 30338 E. Bear Mountain Blvd. in Arvin.