

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION NO. 25-54

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDED INDIGENT BURIAL POLICY AND PROCESS.

WHEREAS: The Township currently has a Policy for Indigent Burials; and

WHEREAS: The current policy does not require the submission of financial information to show that the deceased individual or their family is Indigent and cannot claim the body; and

WHEREAS: The development of a new policy with the requirement that expanded financial documents be provided will help the township save money and provide that the families which are not indigent pay for burials; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of Fairfield Township, Butler County, Ohio, as follows;

SECTION 1: The Board hereby approves the amended indigent burial policy and process.

SECTION 2: The Board hereby dispenses with the requirement that this resolution be read on two separate days, pursuant to RC 504.10, and authorizes the adoption of this resolution upon it's first reading.

SECTION 3 This resolution is the subject of the general authority granted to the Board of Trustees through the Ohio Revised Code and not the specific authority granted to the Board of Trustees through the status as a Limited Home Rule Township.

SECTION 4: That it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including §121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 5: This resolution shall take effect at the earliest period allowed by law.

Adopted: April 8, 2025

Board of Trustees

Michael Berding: _____

Shannon Hartkemeyer: _____

Joe McAbee: _____

Vote of Trustees

yes

yes

yes

AUTHENTICATION

This is to certify that this is a resolution which was duly passed, and filed with the Fairfield Township Fiscal Officer this 8th day of April, 2025.

ATTEST:

Shelly Schultz
Shelly Schultz, Fairfield Township Fiscal Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

L.F. Barbieri
Katherine Barbieri, Township Law Director



Policy for Defining Indigent for Purposes of Burial at Fairfield Township's Expense Resolution No.

Generally:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with Ohio Revised Code §9.15(C) which mandates that a township must bury or cremate a body at the township's expense when the body is claimed by an indigent person. ORC §9.15(C) defines "indigent person" as someone whose income does not exceed 150% of the federal poverty line when adjusted to the correct family size.

This policy provides guidelines intended for use by the Fairfield Township Board of Trustees when determining indigency status for the person claiming the body of a deceased person residing within the township. The guidelines below adhere to Ohio's indigency determination as set forth in ORC §9.15 and federal poverty threshold criterion.

Upon examination of the indigent person's financial and familial data (in conformance with the guidelines below), the Board shall make a determination as to whether the claimant is indigent. If the Application meets all requirements, Fairfield Township shall pay the funeral home contracted for the indigent burial at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.00.

Claimant's Indigent Status:

When determining indigency status of the person claiming the deceased's body, the Fairfield Township Board of Trustees shall consider gross income of all household members, minus the wage or salary income earned by dependent minors under 18 years of age.

Gross income includes:

- Wages and earnings from employment, interest, annuities, pensions, Social Security, retirement, employment disability, public assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), alimony, child support, unemployment benefits, Workers' Compensation, and any other indirect income:

- Do not incorporate noncash benefits, i.e. food stamps and housing subsidies, or capital gains and losses
- Calculate wages before taxes

The definitions set forth in Attachment A apply to this policy.

Claimant shall provide Fairfield Township with the number and age of claimant's dependents.

Claimant shall provide documentation of income.

Limitations:

The Township shall not be responsible for burying or cremating any body found within Fairfield Township, which is claimed by a person not found to be indigent.

All expenses made by a non-indigent claimant shall be paid by the claimant.

When the claimant is determined to be indigent, the manner of cremation, burial, and aspects thereof shall be solely the decision of Fairfield Township and in accordance with ORC §9.15.

An indigent person claiming a body may not make independent funeral arrangements and have the bill submitted to Fairfield Township. Should this occur, Fairfield Township is not liable for costs under these circumstances.

Public Records Notification

Some of the records submitted by claimants, as part of the indigency determination process, may be confidential and not a public record under applicable State and Federal Law. Fairfield Township will consult with legal counsel prior to releasing any such documents to third parties.

**150% of the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines
as Reported by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**

Persons in Family / Household	Poverty Guidelines (Annual Income) *	150% Poverty Guideline (Annual Income)
1	15,650.00	23,475.00
2	21,150.00	31,725.00
3	26,650.00	39,975.00
4	32,150.00	48,225.00
5	37,650.00	56,475.00
6	43,150.00	64,725.00
7	48,650.00	72,975.00
8	54,150.00	81,225.00

*For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,060 for each additional person.

Attachment A

Definitions

Income

Income consists of the following 23 components:

1. Earnings (wages, salaries, and self-employment income)
2. Interest income
3. Dividend income
4. Rents, royalties, estate, and trust income
5. Non-government survivor pensions and annuities
6. Non-government survivor pensions and annuities
7. Non-government disability pensions and annuities
8. Social Security
9. Unemployment compensation
10. Workers' compensation
11. Veterans' payments other than pensions
12. Government retirement pensions and annuities
13. Government survivor pensions and annuities
14. Government disability pensions and annuities
15. Public assistance (includes TANF and other cash welfare)
16. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
17. Veterans' pensions
18. Government educational assistance
19. Non-government educational assistance
20. Child Support
21. Alimony
22. Regular contributions from persons not living in the household
23. Money income not elsewhere classified

Income does not include the following:

1. Noncash benefits (such as food stamps and housing subsidies)
2. Capital gains or losses

Household

A household consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live with any other persons in the structure and there is direct access from the outside or through a common hall. A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated people, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the housing unit.

Household, Size of

The term "size of household" includes all the people occupying a housing unit. "Size of family" includes the family householder and all other people in the living quarters that are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. "Size of related subfamily" includes the husband and wife or the lone parent and their never-married sons and daughters under 18 years of age. If a family has a related subfamily among its members, the size of the family includes the members of the related subfamily.

Alimony

Includes all periodic payments people receive from ex-spouses. Alimony excludes one-time property settlements.

Child Support

Includes all periodic payments a parent receives from an absent parent for the support of children, even if these payments are made through a state or local government office.

Dividends

Includes income people receive from stock holdings and mutual fund shares. Does not include capital gains from the sale of stock holdings as income.

Earnings

The Census Bureau classifies earnings from longest job (or self-employment) and other employment earnings into three types:

- 1.) Money wage or salary income is the total income people receive for work performed as an employee during the income year. This category includes wages, salary, armed forces pay, commissions, tips, piece-rate payments, and cash bonuses earned, before deductions are made for items such as taxes, bonds, pensions, and union dues.
- 2.) Net income from nonfarm self-employment is the net money income (gross receipts Minus expenses) from one's own business, professional enterprise, or partnership. Gross receipts include the value of all goods sold and services rendered. Expenses include items such as costs of goods purchased, rent, heat, power, depreciation charges, wages and salaries paid, and business taxes (not personal income taxes). In general, the Census Bureau considers inventory changes in determining net income from nonfarm self-employment; replies based on income tax returns or other official records do reflect inventory changes. However, when respondents do not report values of inventory changes, interviewers will accept net income figures exclusive of inventory changes. The Census Bureau does not include the value of saleable merchandise consumed by the proprietors of retail stores as part of net income.

3.) Net income from farm self-employment is the net money income (gross receipts minus Operating expenses) from the operation of a farm by a person on their own account, an owner, renter, or sharecropper. Gross receipts include the value of all products sold, payments from government farm programs, money received from the rental of farm equipment to others, rent received from farm property if payment is made based on a percent of crops produced, and incidental receipts from the sale of items such as wood, sand, and gravel. Operating expenses include items such as cost of feed, fertilizer, seed, and other farming supplies; cash wages paid to farmhands; depreciation charges; cash rent; interest on farm mortgages; farm building repairs, and farm taxes (not state and federal personal income taxes). The Census Bureau does not include the value of fuel, food, or other farm products used for family living as part of net income. In determining farm self-employment income, the Census Bureau considers inventory changes in determining net income only when they are accounted for in replies based on income tax returns, or other official records which reflect inventory changes; otherwise, the Census Bureau does not take inventory changes into account.

Educational Assistance

Includes Pell Grants; other government educational assistance; any scholarships or grants; or financial assistance students receive from employers, friends, or relatives not residing in the student's household.

Financial Assistance from Outside of Household

Includes periodic payments people receive from nonhousehold members. This type of assistance excludes gifts or sporadic assistance.

Interest

Includes payments people receive (or have credited to accounts) from bonds, treasury notes, IRAs, certificates of deposit, interest-bearing savings and checking accounts, and all other investments that pay interest.

Other Income

Includes all other payments people receive regularly that are not included elsewhere on the questionnaire. Some examples are state programs such as foster child payments, military family allotments, and income received from foreign government pensions.

Pensions or Retirement

Includes payments people receive from eight sources: companies or unions; federal government (Civil Service); military; state or local governments; railroad retirement; annuities or paid-up insurance policies; individual retirement accounts (IRAs), Keogh, or 401(k) payments; or other retirement income.

Public Assistance or Welfare Payments

Includes cash public assistance payments low-income people receive, such as aid to families with dependent children (AFDC, ADC), temporary assistance to needy families (TANF), general assistance, and emergency assistance.

Rents, Royalties, and Estates and Trusts

Includes the net income people receive from the rental of a house, store, or other property, receipts from boarders or lodgers, net royalty income, and periodic payments from estate or trust funds.

Social Security

Includes social security pensions and survivors' benefits and permanent disability insurance payments made by the Social Security Administration prior to deductions for medical insurance.

Supplemental Security Income

Includes federal, state, and local welfare agency payments to low-income people who are 65 years old or over or people of any age who are blind or disabled.

Unemployment Compensation

Includes payments the respondent received from government unemployment agencies or private companies during periods of unemployment and any strike benefits the respondent received from union funds.

Veterans' Payments

Includes payments disabled members of the armed forces or survivors of deceased veterans receive periodically from the Department of Veterans Affairs for education and on-the-job training and means-tested assistance to veterans.

Workers' Compensation

Includes payments people receive periodically from public or private insurance companies for injuries received at work.



Application for Burial at Fairfield Township's Expense

Application Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Age: _____ Please provide written documentation of age, such as driver's license

Size of Household: _____

Age(s) of Number in Household: _____

INCOME DOCUMENTATION

Household Income Source(s): Please attach to this application documentation of each income source, including SS or Medicare cards, pay stubs, income tax returns and such.**

_____ monthly / yearly amount \$ _____ (circle one)

_____ monthly / yearly amount \$ _____ (circle one)

_____ monthly / yearly amount \$ _____ (circle one)

_____ monthly / yearly amount \$ _____ (circle one)

_____ monthly / yearly amount \$ _____ (circle one)

_____ monthly / yearly amount \$ _____ (circle one)

For Office Use

Application filed on: _____ Received by: _____
(Date Filed) (Twp. Personnel Receiving Application)

Documentation of income attached: Yes or No Purchase Order No.: _____

Approved: _____

(Date)

AFFIDAVIT OF DECEASED'S REPRESENTATIVE

STATE OF OHIO §

COUNTY OF _____ §

I, _____ (the "Affiant"), as the representative of the deceased
_____ (the "Decedent"), being first duly sworn, do depose and state
that:

1. Decedent died a resident of the unincorporated area of Fairfield Township.
2. To the best of Affiant's knowledge, neither the funeral director nor the funeral home has received any compensation, either directly or indirectly, in any form, for the cremation of the Decedent.
3. To the best of Affiant's knowledge, the Decedent is indigent and has no real or personal property, employment benefits, pensions, annuities, social security, unemployment compensation, inheritances, insurance, or other assets.
4. Affiant agrees to reimburse Fairfield Township for disposition expenses, if it is determined that the Decedent died owning assets, property, and/or insurance sufficient to cover the Decedent cremation and/or burial expenses.
6. Affiant says he or she is the individual making the forgoing application; and that the answers to the foregoing questions and other statements contained herein are true to the best of his or her knowledge.

Further Affiant sayeth naught.

(Signature)

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC