

Adas Yeshurun Synagogue Cemetery Rules & Regulations

Article I -- Purpose

The Adas Yeshurun Synagogue (AYS) in Augusta, GA owns interests in several parcels in Magnolia Cemetery and Westover Cemetery in Augusta, Georgia. This land will be referred to as AYS Cemetery.

It is the wish of the congregation that AYS Cemetery be available primarily for the interment of members and only under special circumstances for non-members, as stated in Article VII.

These rules and regulations set forth the policies and procedures under which the AYS Cemetery will be administered, with the intent that sale and use of AYS Cemetery areas will be fair, equitable, and consistent with halacha.

Article II- Cemetery Committee

The AYS Cemetery Committee shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the President of AYS. The Chairperson will select at least two additional members, up to a total of five. The Rabbi shall be an ex-officio member of the Cemetery Committee. The Cemetery Committee is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the AYS Cemetery. It will make recommendations to the AYS Board and serve as the point of contact for any non-halachic questions concerning the AYS Cemetery. The AYS Rabbi will have final authority on all halachic matters. The Chairperson shall serve until that time that a new Chairperson is appointed.

Article III -- Plan

The AYS Cemetery is and will be divided into sections, rows, and plots, each section, row, and plot being numbered as shown on a plan maintained in the administrative office at AYS.

Article IV -- Cemetery

Section 1: One monument or headstone may be erected on each grave, and one monument may be erected for a family plot. The design, materials, and foundation must be approved in advance by the Cemetery Committee. Only monuments and headstones of granite, marble, or standard bronze are allowed in the cemetery. No monument shall exceed 54 inches in height (including the base); foot markers are not to exceed 6 inches in height. Monuments and markers erected without the Cemetery Committee's written approval will be removed at the expense of the member or the member's family.

Section 2: All inscriptions or embellishments desired on any monument, headstone, or marker must have the advance written approval of the AYS Rabbi. Inscriptions and embellishments made without this approval will be removed at the expense of the member or the member's family.

Section 3: Only approved monuments, headstones, and markers may be erected or placed in AYS Cemetery. Mausoleums and similar structures are prohibited.

Section 4: No photographs or pictures of any kind shall be permitted on any monument, headstone, or marker.

Section 5: Copings and benches are permitted with the approval of the Cemetery Committee. Copings must be placed level with the ground. The placement of benches requires the approval of the Cemetery Committee.

Section 6: Objects other than monuments, copings, and markers are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, cradles, railings, fences, statues, and live or artificial flowers and plants.

Section 7: Vendors or charity collectors are not permitted on the cemetery property.

Section 8: No cemetery visitations or work shall be permitted on the Sabbath or the major Jewish holidays (i.e., Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, the first two days and the last two days of Sukkot and Passover, and the two days of Shavuot), and any other days determined by the AYS Rabbi. Work in the cemetery will only be performed by contractors and vendors approved by the Cemetery Committee. Costs incurred as a result of or incidental to any work performed will be borne by the contractor, vendor, or by the family.

Section 9: Monuments, headstones, and the foundations they are set upon, are the sole responsibility of the family who had them erected. Sinking foundations must be made level once AYS has notified the member or family. If not corrected within 60 days, AYS has the right to correct the problem at the member's or family's expense or to remove the sinking monument/headstone upon vote of the AYS Board, also at the member's or family's expense.

Section 10: AYS strictly prohibits the burial or scattering of any cremated remains.

Section 11: Vaults are prohibited by Jewish law.

Section 12: No remains that have been interred in the AYS Cemetery shall be removed except upon the written request of the family and with the written approval of the AYS Cemetery Committee, or as required by the laws of Georgia.

Article V -- Publication

Copies of the rules and regulations of the AYS Cemetery will be maintained in the office of the AYS administrator and will be made available upon request.

Article VI -- Amendments

These rules and regulations of AYS Cemetery may be amended from time to time by the AYS Board.

Article VII – Right of Interment, Prices and Charges

Section 1: The Right of Interment of graves in AYS Cemetery (collectively, the “Rights”) shall be governed by the following:

A. Rights shall be limited to those of the Jewish faith. Additionally, Rights shall be limited to current members of AYS, in good financial standing, as determined by the Treasurer. Membership is defined by the AYS Board based on recommendations from the Membership Committee and may include full members, joint/dual members, and qualifying Associate Members who are in good financial standing and meet all other eligibility criteria set forth under the applicable bylaws or policy.

B. Full members and dual/joint members, whose dues and other obligations are paid in full for the current and past two years may be interred at no additional charge, as may qualifying Associate members who are paid in full for the current and past ten years.

C. Full members and dual/joint members not eligible under VII.1.B may be interred when dues for the current and past two years are paid; non-qualifying Associate Members may be interred at a cost of three times the current full single membership and will be credited for any dues paid in consecutive years through the current year;

D. Former full or joint/dual members of AYS who moved more than 50 miles from AYS may be interred at a cost of three times the current full single membership;

E. Members’ children, parents, and/or siblings who reside more than 50 miles from AYS, as well as the spouses of such persons, may be interred at a cost of three times the current full single membership rate;

F. Non-members, whose spouses are interred in AYS Cemetery, may be interred at a cost of three times the current full single membership rate.

G. Anyone else of the Jewish faith may be interred when, due to extraordinary circumstances, denying interment would be grossly unjust or clearly inconsistent with halachic principles. Such a determination will only be made with unanimous concurrence of the AYS Rabbi, the AYS President, and the AYS Cemetery Committee Chairperson. Cost will be three times the current full single membership rate. Consultation from the full AYS Board and AYS Cemetery Committee will be sought when practicable;

H. The cost of interment must be paid in full prior to interment, unless a payment plan has been arranged with the AYS President and the AYS Treasurer. In such case, costs must be paid in full within one year or an annual interest charge of 2 ½% will be applied to the balance.

Section 2: Current members in good financial standing may purchase a grave within AYS Cemetery.

A non-member may purchase a grave within AYS Cemetery for burial of any of the persons included in one of the categories under Article VII, Section 1.A, provided all other eligibility criteria are met.

Section 3: The AYS Board will periodically and, upon recommendation of the Cemetery Committee in consultation with the Finance Committee, change rates or fees associated with the AYS Cemetery.

Section 4: To purchase a grave, a member must be in good financial standing and must pay the full cost of the grave and perpetual care. This payment may be made in installments, not to exceed one year or an annual interest charge of 2.5% will be applied to the balance.

Section 5: AYS has no control over fees that might be charged by outside parties, such as the funeral home and the cemetery. These are fully the responsibility of the member or the family.

Section 6: Any money owed to AYS by the member or family for membership dues or other financial obligations or for interment costs must be paid prior to interment.

Section 7: The AYS President and AYS Treasurer may reduce or waive interment, perpetual care, and other fees due to financial hardship.

Article VIII -- Transfers

Section 1: The transfer of right of interment is permitted only when the grave is transferred from the original owner to a member of his or her immediate family who otherwise would be eligible to purchase interment rights as specified in Article VII, Section 1.A, above. AYS must be notified in writing in advance of the transfer.

Section 2: No plot may otherwise be sold or transferred unless written notice is given to the Cemetery Committee and the Cemetery Committee provides written approval of the transfer.

Article IX -- Conditions

Section 1: Each reservation of a plot or grave shall contain and be made with the condition and understanding that use of the grave will be subject to the rules and regulations of the AYS Cemetery and Jewish law, both as they exist at the time of the purchase and burial, and as they may be thereafter changed.

Article X -- Services

Section 1: Only such services, ceremonies, and other activities as are approved by the Cemetery Committee and the AYS Rabbi shall be permitted on the cemetery grounds. AYS Rabbi will have final say on all halachic matters.

Section 2: Funeral details, including transporting the deceased and selecting the casket, shall be in accordance with Jewish law and approved by the AYS Rabbi.

Section 3: The AYS Rabbi will officiate at all funerals and unveilings in the AYS cemetery. A guest Rabbi may officiate only with the permission of the AYS Rabbi. No Non-Jewish clergy may officiate at services within the AYS cemetery, although they may participate in a service with the permission of the AYS Rabbi.

Section 4: There shall not be any public viewing of the deceased at AYS or at the AYS

cemetery.

Article XII – Services of the Rabbi in Funerals and Unveilings

Section 1: Members – The services of the AYS Rabbi for funerals and unveilings are primarily for the benefit of the members of AYS. AYS members in good financial standing are to be provided the services of the AYS Rabbi for interment, unveiling, and other usual and customary related purposes, at no additional charge. Gratuities are solely at the member's or family's discretion. Fees for non-members and non-qualifying Associate Members will be calculated in accordance with Article VII, Section 1.A.

Section 2: The services of the AYS Rabbi shall not be available to a non-member at AYS Cemetery without the approval of the AYS Board.

4/24/2012