



1832 Flower Street
Bakersfield, California 93305

INDIGENT CREMATIONS

Who can apply?

Only the legal next-of-kin may request a county cremation.

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 and proof of the decedent's income and verification, upon request. The decedent must be a Kern County resident. Eligibility will be determined by Supervisor/Deputy Coroner staff.

How do I apply?

You can obtain paperwork at the Kern County Sheriff-Coroner's Office located at 1832 Flower Street in Bakersfield [directly behind Kern Medical ER adjacent to the Kern Medical's Campus Pharmacy]. Office hours are Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The office is closed between 12:00 p.m. and 1 p.m. for lunch.

What does it cost?

After review of the County Cremation application, a Supervisor/Deputy Coroner will determine if the application qualifies and 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. Additionally, the fee for shipping of cremated remains must be paid before the cremation occurs.

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 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 remain 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 must be paid in full prior to cremation. Depending on the location, shipping fees may range from \$35 to \$90.

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 internment at Bakersfield National Cemetery.

Should 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.