



# PCC RULES & REGULATIONS MANUAL

## PERPETUALLY MAINTAINED CEMETERIES

**ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED (A.C.A.) TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 2, CHAPTER 17, SUBCHAPTER 10**  
**CURRENT THROUGH ALL LEGISLATION OF THE 2023 REGULAR SESSION, INCLUDING CORRECTIONS AND EDITS BY**  
**THE ARKANSAS CODE REVISION COMMISSION.**

### TABLE OF CONTENTS – PAGE 1

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PAGE(S)</u>
▪ Title 20, Subtitle 2, Ch. 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead, Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries	3
▪ § 20-17-1001. Title.	3
▪ § 20-17-1002. Definitions. [Effective July 1, 2021]	4-5
▪ § 20-17-1003. Application of subchapter – Exceptions.	6
▪ § 20-17-1004. Arkansas Cemetery Board – Creation – Members. [Repealed effective July 1, 2018]	REMOVED
▪ § 20-17-1005. Arkansas Cemetery Board – Proceedings. [Repealed effective July 1, 2018]	REMOVED
▪ § 20-17-1006. Arkansas Cemetery Board – Powers and duties. [Repealed effective July 1, 2018]	REMOVED
▪ § 20-17-1007. Examination of cemetery. [Effective July 1, 2018]	7
▪ § 20-17-1008. Permit – Application. [Effective July 1, 2021]	8-9
▪ § 20-17-1009. Permit – Investigation by Department of Health. [Effective July 1, 2018]	10
▪ § 20-17-1010. Permit – Investigation and issuance by the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services. [Effective July 1, 2018]	11
▪ § 20-17-1011. Permit – Amendment. [Effective July 1, 2021]	12-13
▪ § 20-17-1012. Permit – Transfer of ownership – Definition. [Effective July 1, 2021]	14-15
▪ § 20-17-1013. Permanent maintenance fund generally. [Effective July 1, 2021]	16-17
▪ § 20-17-1014. Permanent Maintenance Fund trustees. [Effective July 1, 2021]	18-19
▪ § 20-17-1015. Permanent maintenance fund – Annual report. [Effective July 1, 2021]	20
▪ § 20-17-1016. Permanent maintenance fund – Required deposits. [Effective July 1, 2018]	21-22
▪ § 20-17-1017. Permanent maintenance fund – Voluntary contributions. [Effective July 1, 2018]	23
▪ § 20-17-1018. Violations, criminal penalties, and remedies. [Effective July 1, 2018]	24-25
▪ § 20-17-1019. Conveyance of lots. [Effective July 1, 2018]	26
▪ § 20-17-1020. Unlawful act. [Effective July 1, 2021]	27
▪ § 20-17-1021. Disposition of contributions and fees. [Effective July 1, 2018]	28
▪ § 20-17-1022. Records required. [Effective July 1, 2018]	29
▪ § 20-17-1023. Annual report of condition of cemetery company. [Effective July 1, 2018]	30-31
▪ § 20-17-1024. [Repealed prior to July 1, 2018]	REMOVED
▪ § 20-17-1025. Protection of cemeteries – Power to lend. [Effective July 1, 2021]	32
▪ § 20-17-1026. Annual permit fee. [Effective July 1, 2021]	33
▪ § 20-17-1027. Duties of the State Securities Department. [Repealed effective July 1, 2018]	REMOVED
▪ § 20-17-1028. Contracts with municipality or county where a cemetery is located. [Effective July 1, 2018]	34
▪ § 20-17-1029. Cemetery advisory boards–Membership–Organization–Authority. [Repealed effective July 1, 2018]	REMOVED
▪ § 20-17-1030. Infant interment gardens. [Effective July 1, 2018]	35
▪ § 20-17-1031. Perpetual care cemetery – Duty to maintain. [Effective July 1, 2023]	36

## PERPETUALLY MAINTAINED CEMETERIES

ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED (A.C.A.) TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 2, CHAPTER 17, SUBCHAPTER 13  
CURRENT THROUGH ALL LEGISLATION OF THE 2023 REGULAR SESSION, INCLUDING CORRECTIONS AND EDITS BY  
THE ARKANSAS CODE REVISION COMMISSION.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS – PAGE 2

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PAGE(S)</u>
▪ Title 20, Subtitle 2, Ch. 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead, Subchapter 13. Insolvent Cemetery Grant Fund Act	37
▪ § 20-17-1301. Title.	37
▪ § 20-17-1302. Findings and purpose.	38
▪ § 20-17-1303. Insolvent Cemetery Grant Fund. [Effective July 1, 2018]	39
▪ § 20-17-1304. Powers and duties of State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services. [Effective July 1, 2018]	40
▪ § 20-17-1305. Eligibility for grants – Definition. [Effective July 1, 2021]	41
▪ § 20-17-1306. Application. [Effective July 1, 2018]	42
▪ § 20-17-1307. Grant payments – Amount. [Effective July 1, 2018]	43
▪ § 20-17-1308. Use of grant awards.	44

---

ARKANSAS PERPETUALLY MAINTAINED CEMETERY LAW  
ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED (A.C.A.) TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 2, CHAPTER 17, SUBCHAPTER 10  
**CURRENT THROUGH ALL LEGISLATION OF THE 2023 REGULAR SESSION, INCLUDING CORRECTIONS AND EDITS BY  
THE ARKANSAS CODE REVISION COMMISSION.**

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17.  
Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1001. Title.**

This subchapter may be cited as the "Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries".

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 1; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.1.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1002. Definitions.**

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Care and maintenance" means the continual maintenance of the cemetery grounds and graves in keeping with a properly maintained cemetery;

(2)

(A) "Cemetery" means any land or a structure in this state dedicated to and used or intended to be used for interment of human remains.

(B) "Cemetery" includes a burial park for earth interments, a mausoleum for vault or crypt interments, or a combination of one (1) or more burial parks or mausoleums;

(3) "Cemetery company" means an individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or association, now or hereafter organized, owning or controlling cemetery lands or property and conducting the business of a cemetery or making an application with the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services to own or control the lands or conduct the business;

(4) "Columbarium" means a structure or room or space in a building or structure used or intended to be used for the interment of cremated human remains;

(5) "Crypt" means a chamber of sufficient size to inter the remains of a deceased person;

(6) "Infant interment garden" means a designated area in a perpetual care cemetery for the interments of infants and children no more than twenty-four (24) months of age;

(7) "Interment" means the lawful disposition of the remains of a deceased person as provided by law;

(8) "Lawn crypt" means an interment space sometimes referred to as a "belowground crypt", "westminister", or "turf top crypt" in a preplaced chamber or burial vault either side-by-side or at multiple depths, covered by earth and sod;

(9) "Lot or grave space" means a space of ground in a cemetery used or intended to be used for interment therein;

(10) "Mausoleum" means a community-type structure or room or space in a building or structure used or intended to be used for the interment of human remains in crypts or niches;

(11) "Niche" means a space in a columbarium that is used or intended to be used for the interment of the cremated remains of one (1) or more deceased persons;

(12) "Permit holder" means a cemetery company that holds a permit issued by the board to own or operate a perpetual care cemetery;

(13) "Perpetual care cemetery" means a cemetery for the benefit of which a permanent maintenance fund has been established in accordance with this subchapter; and

(14) "Properly maintained" means, with regard to a perpetual care cemetery, provided care and maintenance services, including without limitation:

(A) Mowing the grass of the perpetual care cemetery;

(B) Weed trimming around lots or grave space and fences or property lines of the perpetual care cemetery;

- (C) emptying trash receptacles located at the perpetual care cemetery; and
- (D) Removing excess dirt, tree limbs, leaves, trash, and other debris from the grounds of the perpetual care cemetery.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 2; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.2; Acts 1997, No. 295, § 1; 2001, No. 1242, § 1; 2007, No. 827, § 163; 2009, No. 714, § 1; 2009, No. 715, §§ 1, 2; 2011, No. 590, § 1; 2017, No. 788, § 31; 2021, No. 731, §§ 1, 2.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1003. Application of subchapter – Exceptions.**

**(a)** This subchapter applies to all cemeteries and burial grounds located in the State of Arkansas unless the cemetery is owned and operated by:

- (1)** A church or similar religious organization;
- (2)** A municipality or county government;
- (3)** A family, exclusively for its own family use; or
- (4)** A community nonprofit association in which no person is entitled to receive pecuniary profit other than the bookkeeper and maintenance crew.

**(b)** Persons who do not and have never received more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) gross proceeds in any one (1) year from the sale of parcels of realty to be used as human burial sites are exempt from this subchapter.

**(c)** All cemeteries that advertise or operate all or a part thereof as perpetual care or permanent maintenance cemeteries shall be subject to this subchapter regardless of the organization of the person or group owning and operating the cemetery or burial grounds.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 3; 1981, No. 819, § 1; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 82-426.3, 82-426.3a.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1007. Examination of cemetery.**

**(a)**

**(1)** An examined cemetery company shall pay the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services for the examination:

**(A)** One hundred dollars (\$100) per day for each examiner who conducts the examination; and

**(B)** The amount necessary to reimburse the travel, meal, and lodging expenses of each examiner.

**(2)** An examination shall be conducted by an employee of the State Insurance Department or board member.

**(b)** In lieu of any financial examination that the board shall be authorized to make, the board may accept the audit of an independent certified public accountant, provided that the Insurance Commissioner has notified the cemetery company that the audit would be accepted and that the cemetery company has notified the commissioner in writing that an audit would be prepared.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 20; 1981, No. 512, § 5; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.20; Acts 1997, No. 250, § 191; 2009, No. 715, § 4; 2013, No. 390, § 2; 2017, No. 788, § 35.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1008. Permit – Application.**

**(a)**

(1) Before making application to the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services for a permit to establish and operate a new cemetery or for the extension of the boundaries of an existing cemetery, the cemetery company proposing to make application shall publish weekly for three (3) weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the proposed cemetery is located a notice that an application will be filed with the board to establish or extend the boundaries of a cemetery in the county.

(2) The publication described in subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall contain a legal description of the land to be used as a cemetery and a statement that any individual or group of individuals desiring to protest the establishment or extension of the cemetery may do so by filing a statement in writing with the board.

**(b)**

(1) Whenever it is proposed to locate a new cemetery or extend the boundaries of an existing cemetery under this subchapter, then the cemetery company so proposing shall file an application for the issuance of a permit with the board.

(2) The application shall describe accurately the location and boundaries of the proposed cemetery or extension.

(3) The application shall be accompanied by:

**(A)**

(i) The recommendation of the mayor or governing official of the municipality if the cemetery is located or is to be located within the corporate limits of a municipality or the recommendation of the county judge of the county within which the cemetery is to be located if outside the corporate limits of a municipality.

(ii) The recommendation described in subdivision (b)(3)(A)(i) of this section shall:

(a) State the need and desirability of the proposed cemetery or extension; and

(b) Be in lieu of the application and permit required in § 20-17-903;

**(B)** A fee of:

(i) One thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for filing an application for a new cemetery; or

(ii) Four hundred dollars (\$400) for filing an application to extend the boundaries of an existing cemetery;

**(C)**

(i) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(3)(C)(ii), a survey and map of the cemetery or extension reflecting at least ten (10) acres of land.

(ii) An existing cemetery that consists of less than ten (10) acres of land on or before January 1, 2021, is not required to have ten (10) acres of land but shall submit a survey and map of the cemetery or extension of the existing cemetery;

**(D)** A set of rules and regulations for the use, care, management, and protection of the cemetery;

**(E)** The proposed method of establishing a permanent maintenance fund;

**(F)** Proof of publication as stated in subsection (a) of this section of the required notice of intention to apply with the board;

- (G)** A copy of a current title opinion by an Arkansas-licensed attorney or title insurance policy that reflects that the applicant has or will have good and merchantable title to the land covered by the permit or extension;
- (H)** A notarized statement disclosing any current or future lien or mortgage on the land covered by the permit;
- (I)** A notarized statement from any current or future lienholder or mortgage holder on the land covered by the permit or extension that all paid-in-full burial spaces will be released from the lien or mortgage at least semi-annually;
- (J)** A copy of the perpetual care trust agreement if the application is for a new cemetery permit; and
- (K)** A current balance sheet of the applicant prepared by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles that reflects that the applicant has a minimum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) net worth.

- (5)** Any other evidence that would tend to show a public need for the proposed cemetery or extension, such as a petition from landowners in the county who believe that a need exists for an additional cemetery or extension, may be included with the application.
- (6)** The burden of establishing public need shall be upon the applicant.

**(c)** An application shall be made under oath and filed with the board not less than twenty (20) days before the board meeting at which the application is to be considered.

**(d)**

**(1)** The cemetery company applying for a permit shall designate an individual who is responsible for the application.

**(2)** The individual designated under subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall undergo and pass a state criminal background check conducted by the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police.

**(3)** The board may charge and collect a processing fee in the amount necessary to recover the cost imposed by the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police for the state criminal background check.

**(e)** The board may require a cemetery company to submit additional information as the board may by rule or order prescribe.

**(f)** The board may for good cause waive all or part of an application requirement of this section if an applicant is a state, city, or municipal government, or a nonprofit organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

**HISTORY:** Acts 1977, No. 352, §§ 6-8; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 82-426.6 — 82-426.8; Acts 1997, No. 295, § 4; 2005, No. 2169, § 1; 2013, No. 390, § 3; 2017, No. 788, §§ 36, 37; 2021, No. 731, § 3.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1009. Permit – Investigation by Department of Health.**

- (a) Upon submission of an application to the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services for the issuance of a permit for a new cemetery or for an extension of the boundaries of an existing cemetery, the applicant shall request that the Department of Health investigate the proposed cemetery location or extension to determine if the proposed new or expanded location will be sanitary.
- (b) In making the investigation, the department shall take into consideration the proximity of the proposed cemetery or extension to human habitation, the nature of the soil, the drainage of the ground, the danger of pollution of springs or streams of water, and any other conditions concerning whether the proposed new or expanded location will be sanitary.
- (c)
  - (1) After completing the investigation, the department shall promptly submit in writing its approval or disapproval of the proposed new or expanded location from a sanitary standpoint to the board.
  - (2) If the department disapproves the proposed cemetery location or extension, further action on the application shall be suspended until the applicant acquires a location which meets with the approval of the department or until other action, as necessary, is taken.
- (d) The cemetery shall pay the department any fee required by law.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 9; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.9; Acts 2009, No. 715, § 5; 2017, No. 788, § 38.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1010. Investigation and issuance by the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services.**

- (a) If the cemetery company has fully complied with this subchapter and if the Department of Health approves the location of the new cemetery or the extension of the boundaries of an existing cemetery, then the application shall be submitted to the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services for investigation and for approval or disapproval.
- (b) Immediately upon the submission of each application, the board shall investigate to determine the fitness of the cemetery company, the need for the cemetery, and all other questions bearing directly or indirectly upon the need or desirability from the public standpoint of the proposed cemetery or extension.
  - (c)
    - (1)
      - (A) If the application for a new cemetery is approved, the board shall issue a permit to the applicant only after the applicant has filed proof with the board that an initial principal deposit of at least five thousand dollars (\$5,000) has been made to the permanent maintenance fund.
      - (B) The initial five thousand dollars (\$5,000) under subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section can be used to meet the liability due the permanent maintenance fund for the first paid-in-full burial space sales sold by the permit holder.
    - (2) The permit shall be filed in the court of the county in which the cemetery is located and with the department.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 10; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.10; Acts 1997, No. 295, § 5; 2009, No. 715, § 6; 2017, No. 788, § 39.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1011. Permit – Amendment.**

- (a) Whenever it is proposed that a cemetery subject to this subchapter amend its present permit, whether for construction of a structure such as a mausoleum or columbarium, reduction of boundaries of twenty percent (20%) or more, reduction or increase in percentage of gross sales proceeds to be placed in the permanent maintenance fund, or other amendment, then the cemetery company shall file an application for amendment of the permit.
- (b) The application shall be accompanied by:
- (1) A fee of four hundred dollars (\$400);
  - (2) A statement of each proposed amendment;
  - (3) Statements, documents, and other information necessary to provide justification for the amendment;
  - (4) If the amendment is for construction of a mausoleum, columbarium, or similar structure, the application shall include:
    - (A) Plans and specifications of the structure;
    - (B) A report of the inspection of the plans by the Department of Health;
    - (C) A copy of the sales contracts and conveyance documents proposed to be used;
    - (D) A proposed contribution to the permanent maintenance fund;
    - (E) A statement of whether the amount of the sales force will be utilized and of how preconstruction sales and interments will be handled;
    - (F) The location of the proposed structure;
    - (G) The estimated completion date;
    - (H) Either of the following, when sales proceeds may be received by the cemetery company before completion of construction and payment in full of the structure:
      - (i) An executed escrow agreement approved by the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services with a federally insured financial institution or other financial institution approved by the board that provides among other things that one hundred percent (100%) of the sales proceeds collected before the completion of construction and payment in full of the structure will be placed into escrow; or
      - (ii)
        - (a) An executed copy of the construction agreement for the structure that states the total construction cost and the date the construction will be completed with either an executed irrevocable letter of credit from a federally insured financial institution or other financial institution approved by the board equal to one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the total cost of the structure, a cash bond posted with a federally insured financial institution or other financial institution approved by the board equal to one hundred

thirty percent (130%) of the total cost of the structure, or a construction performance bond payable to the board in the amount equal to the total cost of the structure as stated in the construction agreement.

(b)

(1) All letters of credit and bonds, and their issuers, shall be approved by the board.

(2) A letter of credit under this subdivision (b)(4)(H)(ii)(b) shall state that the funds provided shall be paid to the board for the purpose of completing the construction of the structure or paying in full the completed structure if not done before the completion date stated in the construction agreement.

(3) A construction performance bond under this subdivision (b)(4)(H)(ii)(b) shall state that the insurer shall advance the funds necessary to complete the construction of the structure or pay for the completed structure, if not done before the date stated in the construction agreement.

(4) A cash bond under this subdivision (b)(4)(H)(ii)(b) shall provide that the financial institution shall pay the cash proceeds of the bond upon order of the board.

(5) Letters of credit or construction bonds shall state that if the structure is not completed and paid for in full within the maximum time provided for construction under this section, the letters of credit or construction bonds shall be used to complete and pay for the structure;

(I) Certification of an estimated start date for construction to take place no later than thirty-six (36) months after the date of the permit and further certifying completion within five (5) years after the date of the permit unless extended for good cause by the board; and

(J) Other information necessary to show that construction will be done in a good and workmanlike manner and be fireproof; and

(5) Other information as the board may by rule or order require.

(c) The application for the amendment of the permit shall be filed with the board at least twenty (20) calendar days before the meeting at which the board will consider the application.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 12; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.12; Acts 1997, No. 295, § 6; 2005, No. 2169, § 2; 2009, No. 715, §§ 7, 8; 2017, No. 788, §§ 40, 41; 2021, No. 731, §§ 46.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1012. Permit – Transfer of ownership – Definition.**

(a) As used in this section, “controlling interest” means the direct or indirect power to direct the management and policies of a perpetual care cemetery or cemetery company by contract or otherwise, other than as an officer or employee of the perpetual care cemetery or cemetery company.

(b)

(1)

(A) If a change is proposed in the controlling interest of a perpetual care cemetery or a cemetery company or an organization that, directly or indirectly owns a controlling interest in the perpetual care cemetery or cemetery company, the cemetery company that holds the current permit and the individual or organization proposing to gain the controlling interest shall file an application for the issuance of a new permit with the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services.

(B) A controlling interest is presumed to exist if an individual or entity directly or indirectly:

(i) Owns or controls fifty-one percent (51%) or more of the aggregate number of the issued or outstanding ownership interest of a perpetual care cemetery or cemetery company; or

(ii) Holds proxies with the power to vote or voting rights to proxies representing fifty-one percent (51%) or more of the aggregate number of the issued or outstanding ownership interest of a perpetual care cemetery or cemetery company.

(2) The application shall be accompanied by:

(A)

(i) A fee of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500).

(ii) However, the fee described in subdivision (b)(2)(A)(i) of this section shall not be required if the individual or entity described in subdivision (b)(1)(B)(i) or subdivision (b)(1)(B)(ii) of this section is the heir to the estate of the individual who previously held the controlling interest in the permit;

(B) A statement of changes, if any, in the survey and map of the cemetery;

(C) A set of rules and regulations for the use, care, management, and protection of the cemetery;

(D) The proposed method of continuing the permanent maintenance fund for the cemetery;

(E) A statement of the proposed transfer;

(F) A copy of a current title opinion by an Arkansas-licensed attorney or title insurance policy that reflects that the current permit holder has good and merchantable title to the land covered by the permit;

(G) A notarized statement from the seller and purchaser disclosing any current or future lien or mortgage on the land covered by the permit;

(H) A notarized statement from each current or future lienholder or mortgage holder on the land covered by the permit that all paid-in-full burial spaces will be released from the lien or mortgage at least semiannually;

(I)

(i) A current detailed accounting of all paid-in-full merchandise contracts or accounts of the permit holder for which the merchandise has not been delivered to the purchaser or placed in inventory for the benefit of the purchaser.

(ii) The accounting shall be on an individual contract or account basis and contain the name of the purchaser, the contract or account number, the date of the contract, the gross amount of the contract, a description of the

merchandise purchased, the date the contract or account was paid in full, and the specific location where the merchandise is stored;

(J) A current notarized statement from the permit holder that the application contains a complete and accurate accounting of all of his or her outstanding accounts receivable, discounted notes, and paid-in-full merchandise accounts or contracts for which the merchandise has not been delivered to the purchaser or placed in inventory for the benefit of the purchaser;

(K) A current notarized statement from the purchaser or organization gaining a controlling interest that it will assume the responsibility and liability for the accounts, notes, and contracts of the permit holder contained in the accountings and schedules filed with the application;

(L) The financial statement of the purchaser required by rule of the board showing that the purchaser has a minimum net worth of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000);

(M) A copy of the sales contract, transaction documents, or conveyance documents; and

(N) Any additional information required by the board or the Insurance Commissioner.

(3) The board may for good cause waive all or part of an application requirement if the purchaser of a perpetual care cemetery is a state, city, or municipal government or a nonprofit organization as defined by § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

(4) Each permit holder of an interest in the cemetery company is liable for any funds and transactions up to the date of the sale or transfer.

(c)

(1) Before the sale or transfer, the permit holder shall notify the board of the proposed sale or transfer and shall submit to the board, under oath, any document or record the board may require in order to demonstrate that the permit holder is not indebted to the permanent maintenance fund.

(2) After the transfer of ownership or a controlling interest, the permit holder shall present to the board proof that payments into the permanent maintenance fund are current.

(3) The board may require proof of the status of the permanent maintenance fund by the purchaser for a reasonable period of time as necessary in the public interest.

(4) The board may recover from the permit holder or purchaser for the benefit of the permanent maintenance fund:

(A) All sums that the permit holder or purchaser has not properly accounted for and paid into the trust fund; and

(B) Reasonable expenses incurred by the board if suit is filed or other collection action is taken.

(d) A cemetery company that has been issued a permit to operate a cemetery under this subchapter remains liable for the care and maintenance of the cemetery and all amounts owed to the permanent maintenance fund until a new permit is issued to the purchaser.

(e) A new permit shall not be issued to the purchaser of any cemetery until the purchaser complies with this subchapter and the board orders a new permit to be issued to the purchaser.

(f) A permit holder or purchaser that violates this section is guilty of a violation and upon conviction shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500) for the violation.

**HISTORY:** Acts 1977, No. 352, §§ 11, 21; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 82-426.11, 82-426.21; Acts 1997, No. 295, § 7; 2001, No. 1242, § 3; 2001, No. 1553, § 32; 2005, No. 1994, § 113; 2005, No. 2169, § 3; 2009, No. 429, § 1; 2011, No. 590, § 3; 2017, No. 788, §§ 42, 43; 2021, No. 731, § 7

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1013. Permanent maintenance fund generally.**

(a)

(1)

(A) The permanent maintenance fund is a trust fund for the purpose of administration, care, and maintenance of the cemetery, including lots, graves, spaces, crypts, niches, and burial rights.

(B) The principal of the permanent maintenance fund shall be preserved except for withdrawals allowed under § 20-17-1014(b)(1)(C)(ii)(b)

(2)

(A) The net income generated from the investment of the principal of the permanent maintenance fund shall be paid to and expended by the owners, managers, officers, or directors of the cemetery company exclusively for the care and maintenance of the cemetery, including the payment of taxes and administrative expenses of maintaining the fund.

(B) A cemetery company may add unused net income to the principal of the permanent maintenance fund.

(3) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(4) of this section, the principal of the permanent maintenance fund shall be invested and remain invested in securities and funds permitted by the laws of Arkansas for the investment of policy reserves of life insurance companies under the Arkansas Insurance Code, § 23-60-101 et seq., and in the common trust funds of state or national banks.

(4)

(A) A permanent maintenance fund having assets of more than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) may invest not more than fifty percent (50%) of its assets in nonassessable common stocks listed on a national securities exchange, preferred stocks meeting the requirements of § 23-63-815, and investment trust securities meeting the requirements of § 23-63-820.

(B) The diversification restrictions of § 23-63-805 do not apply to investments in investment trust securities.

(5) In investing these funds, the trustee shall exercise the judgment and care under the circumstances then prevailing which persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in management of their own affairs, not in regard to speculation, but in regard to the permanent disposition of their funds, considering the probable income and capital appreciation as well as the probable safety of the capital.

(6)

(A) For purposes of this section, no more than fifty percent (50%) of annual realized net capital gains on investments bought or acquired after January 1, 2013, may be considered income and used according to subdivision (a)(2) of this section.

(B) All other net capital gains on investments shall be added to the principal.

(b) The permanent maintenance fund is authorized by this subchapter, and all sums paid into it or contributed to it shall be deemed to be for charitable and eleemosynary purposes.

(c) No rule against perpetuities shall be applicable to funds as mentioned in this section.

(d)

(1) The trust fund shall be established by executing a written trust agreement approved by the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services.

(2)

(A) The agreement may provide that the cemetery company may change the trustee of its trust fund by amending the agreement if:

(i) The successor trustee meets the requirements of § 20-17-1014; and

(ii) The trustee and successor trustee are parties to the amendment of the agreement.

(B) The trustee and successor trustee shall send the board notification of a change in trustee under subdivision

(d)

(2)

(A) of this section within ten (10) calendar days after the change.

(e) At a minimum, the trustee shall maintain the following:

(1) A general ledger and general journal or comparable books of entry showing all receipts, disbursements, assets, liabilities, and income of the trust fund;

(2) Documents supporting and verifying each asset of the trust fund; and

(3) A trust agreement.

(f) In establishing a permanent maintenance fund, the cemetery company may from time to time adopt plans for the general care and maintenance of its cemetery.

(g)

(1) No more than one (1) time every ten (10) years, a cemetery company may make a withdrawal from the permanent maintenance fund for the purpose of making infrastructure repairs and capital improvements to the perpetual care cemetery.

(2) A withdrawal under subdivision (g)(1) of this section shall not be made without prior approval from the board.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, §§ 13, 14; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 82-426.13, 82-426.14; Acts 2007, No. 240, § 3; 2011, No. 590, § 4; 2013, No. 390, § 4; 2017, No. 788, § 44; 2021, No. 343, § 1; 2021, No. 731, § 8.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1014. Permanent Maintenance Fund trustee.**

(a) The net income from the permanent maintenance fund shall only be used for general maintenance, administration, and preservation of the perpetual care cemetery.

(b)

(1) A cemetery company shall establish a permanent maintenance fund with or transfer the permanent maintenance fund to:

(A) A state or national bank or federal savings bank with trust powers;

(B)

(i) Three (3) trustees.

(ii) If the cemetery company has a permanent maintenance fund with three (3) trustees as described in subdivision (b)(1)(B)(i) of this section, the trustees shall:

(a) Designate one (1) of the three (3) trustees to make disbursements from the trust fund; and

(b) The disbursing trustee described in subdivision (b)(1)(B)(ii)(a) of this section shall deposit with the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services a fidelity bond with corporate surety payable to the trust fund in a penal sum not less than eighty percent (80%) of the value of the trust fund principal at the beginning of each calendar year.

(iii) If a cemetery company has a permanent maintenance fund with three (3) trustees as described in subdivision (b)(1)(B)(i) of this section, no more than one (1) of the trustees may have a direct or indirect financial interest in the perpetual care cemetery; or

(C) An individual trustee:

(i) Shall deposit with the board a fidelity bond with corporate surety payable to the trust fund in a penal sum not less than eighty percent (80%) of the value of the trust fund principal at the beginning of each calendar year; and

(ii) On behalf of the cemetery company shall deposit all permanent maintenance funds directly into a savings account or certificate of deposit in a state or national bank or savings and loan association in this state not less than forty-five (45) days after collection if:

(a) The funds deposited are federally insured;

(b) The funds are restricted to prevent the principal amount of the funds from being withdrawn without the written approval of and on a form approved by the board; and

(c) Not less than one (1) time per year the net income from the funds may be withdrawn by the individual trustee on behalf of the cemetery company for purposes permitted by this subchapter.

(2) If a permanent maintenance fund of a cemetery contains less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), a bond is not required when a cemetery has designated trustees under subdivision (b)(1)(B) or subdivision (b)(1)(C) of this section.

(c)

(1) The board may require a trustee who fails to protect the principal of the permanent maintenance fund under § 20-17-1013 to pay an additional contribution to the permanent maintenance fund of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per day for each day that the principal is deficient.

(2) The additional contribution made under subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall not exceed a total of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a continuous violation.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 13; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.13; Acts 2011, No. 590, § 5; 2011, No. 1148, § 1; 2013, No. 390, § 5; 2017, No. 788, §§ 45, 46; 2021, No. 731, § 9.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1015. Permanent maintenance fund – Annual report.**

- (a)
- (1) Within seventy-five (75) days after the end of each calendar year, the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services shall require the trustee of the permanent maintenance fund to file under oath a detailed annual report of the condition of the fund.
  - (2) The annual report shall include:
    - (A) A description of the assets of the fund;
    - (B) A description of cemetery property encumbered by a lien and the amount of the lien;
    - (C) The cost of acquiring each asset;
    - (D) The market value of the asset at the time of its acquisition, its current market value, and the status of any default;
    - (E) A statement that:
      - (i) The fund is not encumbered by debt; and
      - (ii) None of the assets of the fund constitute loans to:
        - (a) The cemetery company for which the trust fund is established; or
        - (b) An officer or director of the cemetery company; and
    - (F) Any other information the trustee or the board deems pertinent.
- (b) The report shall show the amounts of principal and undistributed income of the fund at the beginning of the period, the amounts deposited by the cemetery company into the fund during the period, the income earned and disbursements made during the period, the details of any investment or reinvestment during the period, and the balances of principal and income at the end of the period being reported on.
- (c)
- (1) If the trustee of the fund fails to meet the requirements of this section, then it shall be the duty of the board to apply to the Pulaski County Circuit Court for an order to require the trustee of the fund to file a proper report and to make any additional contributions due to the failure to timely file the annual report.
  - (2) If funds have been misappropriated by the trustee or are not being handled as required by law, then the board shall apply to the circuit court in the county in which the cemetery is located to have a receiver or conservator appointed by the court to take custody of the trust funds for the benefit of the cestui que trust. The receiver or conservator is vested with full power to file such suits against the defaulting trustee as may be necessary to require a full accounting and restoration of the trust funds and to turn the residue over to another trustee as the cemetery shall select, in conformity with this subchapter, as the new trustee of the permanent maintenance fund.
  - (3) If the trustee does not timely file the annual report required by subsection (a) of this section, the board may require the trustee to pay an additional contribution to the permanent maintenance fund of no more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day until the report is filed with the board.

**HISTORY:** Acts 1977, No. 352, § 16; 1981, No. 512, § 4; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.16; Acts 1997, No. 295, § 8; 2011, No. 590, § 6; 2013, No. 390, § 6; 2017, No. 788, § 47; 2021, No. 731, § 10.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1016. Permanent maintenance fund – Required deposits.**

- (a) Unless a greater amount is established by rule of the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services, a cemetery company shall deposit into its permanent maintenance fund a sum not less than:
- (1) Twenty percent (20%) of the gross proceeds from the sale of a lot or grave space in its cemetery; and
  - (2) Five percent (5%) of the gross proceeds from the sale of a mausoleum crypt, lawn crypt, niche, or other similar entombment in its cemetery.
- (b)
- (1) The deposit shall be made by the cemetery company not later than forty-five (45) days after the final payment has been made.
  - (2) However, any cemetery company making sales on installment sales contracts shall deposit the required percentage in accordance with the following:
    - (A) If the cemetery company receives installment payments directly and if adequate records are maintained as to the full amount of sale, the receipts received, and the balance due, then the cemetery company shall deposit the required percentage of gross proceeds of sale into the permanent maintenance fund not later than the forty-fifth day after the final payment is made, or the cemetery company may deposit the required percentage of each amount received not later than the forty-fifth day after each installment payment by the purchaser; and
    - (B)
      - (i) If the cemetery company elects to discount the installment sales contracts at a bank or other financial institution and receive a discounted value immediately in cash, the required percentage of the gross sales price shall be placed in a separate restricted escrow account at the time that the contract is discounted.
      - (ii) The amount so placed in escrow shall not be withdrawn until the lot purchaser defaults on or fully satisfies his or her contract obligations.
      - (iii) This restricted escrow account may be used by the bank or other financial institution as a part of its required reserve and may be used as recourse if the lot purchaser defaults on the contract.
      - (iv) Upon default, the required percentage of the gross sales price which was placed in this escrow account may be withdrawn and used by the cemetery company.
      - (v) Once final payment has been made, the required percentage of the gross sales price that was placed in an escrow account shall be withdrawn and placed into the permanent maintenance fund within five (5) business days.
      - (vi) If the cemetery corporation enters into an agreement with the bank or other financial institution, which in the Insurance Commissioner's determination adequately provides for the safeguards set forth in subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section, then subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section is not applicable to the cemetery corporation.
  - (3) If a cemetery company gives away a grave space or sells a grave space for a price less than the current market price, the gross sales proceeds received for a similar grave space in the immediately adjacent or similar location in the cemetery in a recent arms-length transaction shall be used as the basis to make the required permanent maintenance fund contribution for the gift or reduced price sale.

(c)

- (1) If the cemetery company fails to make the required deposits in accordance with this section or if the moneys placed in escrow are not deposited as required by this subchapter, then the cemetery company shall be liable for and the board may collect as an additional contribution to the permanent maintenance fund ten dollars (\$10.00) per day but in no instance in amounts to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or the actual cost of the contract property or cemetery lots, whichever is greater, for the period of the failure.
- (2) Upon the refusal of the cemetery company to pay the board the penalty, the board may institute suit to recover the contribution and costs and such other relief as the state in its judgment deems proper and necessary.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 13; 1981, No. 512, § 3; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.13; Acts 1997, No. 295, § 9; 2009, No. 714, § 3; 2011, No. 590, § 7; 2017, No. 788, §§ 48, 49.

---

ARKANSAS PERPETUALLY MAINTAINED CEMETERY LAW  
ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED (A.C.A.) TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 2, CHAPTER 17, SUBCHAPTER 10  
**UPDATED THROUGH THE 2023-2ND REGULAR SESSION**

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1017. Permanent maintenance fund – Voluntary contributions.**

The permanent maintenance fund may also receive, take, and hold therefor and as part thereof or as incident thereto any real, personal, or mixed property bequeathed, devised, granted, given, or otherwise contributed to it.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 15; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.15.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1018. Violations, criminal penalties, and remedies.**

- (a) In addition to the civil provisions of this subchapter, it shall be unlawful for any person to:
- (1) Advertise or operate all or part of a cemetery as a perpetual care cemetery or permanent maintenance cemetery without holding a valid permit issued by the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services; or
  - (2) Fail to place the required contributions into the permanent maintenance fund or to remove any principal of the permanent maintenance fund from trust.
- (b) Any person who knowingly violates subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of a felony and upon pleading guilty or nolo contendere to or being found guilty of a violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or by imprisonment in the state penitentiary for not more than six (6) years, or by both fine and imprisonment.
- (c)
- (1)
    - (A) If it appears to the board that a person has engaged in or is about to engage in a violation of subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the board may summarily order the person to cease and desist from the act or practice.
    - (B) Upon the entry of the order under subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section, the board shall promptly notify the person that the order has been entered and state the reasons for the order.
  - (2)
    - (A) The person ordered to cease and desist may contest the cease and desist order by delivering a written request for a hearing to the board within thirty (30) days from the date that notice of the order is sent by the board to the last known address of the person by first class mail, postage prepaid.
    - (B) The board shall schedule a hearing to be held within a reasonable amount of time after the Insurance Commissioner receives a timely written request for hearing.
    - (C) If no hearing is requested and none is ordered by the board, the order will remain in effect until it is modified or vacated by the board.
    - (D) After notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the board may:
      - (i) Affirm, modify, or vacate the cease and desist order under subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section; and
      - (ii) For a violation of this subchapter, by order levy a fine not to exceed:
        - (a) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each violation; or
        - (b) An amount equal to the total amount of money received in connection with each violation.

- (3) The board may apply to the Pulaski County Circuit Court to temporarily or permanently enjoin an act or practice that violates subdivision (a)(1) of this section and to enforce compliance with this chapter:
  - (A) After an order is issued under subdivision (c)(1) or (c)(2) of this section; or
  - (B) Without issuing an order under subdivision (c)(1) or (c)(2) of this section.
- (4) Upon a proper showing, a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or writ of mandamus shall be granted.
- (5) The board is not required to post a bond to obtain the relief provided by this section.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 21; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.21; Acts 1997, No. 295, § 10; 2011, No. 590, § 8; 2017, No. 788, §§ 50, 51.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1019. Conveyance of lots.**

- (a)
- (1) An instrument conveying all or part of a burial lot or burial plot shall be issued to the purchaser upon full payment of the purchase price of the burial lot or burial plot.
  - (2) The cemetery company shall not use an instrument to convey a burial lot or burial plot unless the form of the instrument has been provided to the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services.
- (b) Only the cemetery company or its agents may sell or convey all or part of lots, grave spaces, crypts, or niches except that:
- (1) The owner of all or part of a lot, grave space, niche, or crypt may sell his or her interest in a lot, grave space, crypt, or niche if:
    - (A) The lot, grave space, crypt, or niche is first offered in writing to the cemetery company at the purchase price then being charged by the cemetery company for similar lots; and
    - (B) The cemetery company refuses the offer within thirty (30) days after the offer is made; and
  - (2) An owner may convey or devise to the cemetery company his or her interest in a lot, grave space, niche, or crypt.
- (c) The secretary or other responsible officer of the cemetery company shall file and record in its books all instruments of transfer.
- (d) The instrument of conveyance shall be signed by the persons having proper authority.
- (e) A mortgage or lien on cemetery land granted by a permit holder shall not encumber any burial space that has been sold before granting the mortgage or lien.
- (f)
- (1) To ensure that all burial spaces remain unencumbered, the permit holder shall file with the board before executing a mortgage or creating a lien a notarized statement reflecting the specific description of the land to be affected by the mortgage or lien and a waiver or release by the proposed mortgagee or lienholder of any claim or right to any burial space for which an instrument of conveyance or deed has been or may be executed.
  - (2) The failure of a permit holder to comply with the requirements of this subsection is grounds for the board to require an additional contribution to the permanent maintenance fund of the cemetery in an amount not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each burial space encumbered.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 18; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.18; Acts 2001, No. 1242, § 4; 2011, No. 590, § 9; 2017, No. 788, § 52.

ARKANSAS PERPETUALLY MAINTAINED CEMETERY LAW  
ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED (A.C.A.) TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 2, CHAPTER 17, SUBCHAPTER 10  
**UPDATED THROUGH THE 2023-2ND REGULAR SESSION**

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1020. Unlawful Act.**

It is unlawful for a cemetery company to bury or inter a body in any driveway, roadway, path, alley, or walk.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 18; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.18; Acts 2021, No. 731, §11.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1021. Disposition of contributions and fees.**

- (a) All contributions imposed under this subchapter shall be:
- (1) Deposited into the respective permanent maintenance fund of the cemetery company upon which the contribution is imposed; and
  - (2) Paid within forty-five (45) days of imposition.
- (b) All fees imposed under this subchapter shall be paid to the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 23; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.23; Acts 2009, No. 715, § 9; 2017, No. 788, § 53.

---

ARKANSAS PERPETUALLY MAINTAINED CEMETERY LAW  
ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED (A.C.A.) TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 2, CHAPTER 17, SUBCHAPTER 10  
**UPDATED THROUGH THE 2023-2ND REGULAR SESSION**

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1022. Records required.**

- (a) All cemetery companies shall make and keep accounts and records which shall indicate that they have made the required contributions to the permanent maintenance fund. The burden is upon the cemetery company to maintain the accounts and records.
- (b) Unless otherwise approved by the Arkansas Cemetery Board, all sales contracts and deeds issued by the cemetery company shall be numbered prior to when they are executed by the cemetery company and shall contain those items that the board by rule or order prescribes.
- (c) A cemetery company shall maintain records of its interments that shall include without limitation:
  - (1) The name of the interred or entombed;
  - (2) The date of interment or entombment; and
  - (3) The location of interment or entombment.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 17; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.17; Acts 2011, No. 590, § 10; 2017, No. 788, § 54.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1023. Annual report of condition of cemetery company.**

- (a)
- (1) Within seventy-five (75) days after the end of the calendar year, a cemetery company shall file with the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services a report under oath of its condition.
  - (2) The report shall include without limitation:
    - (A) The name and contact information of:
      - (i) The cemetery company;
      - (ii) The person in charge of the records of the cemetery company; and
      - (iii) Each person with authority to sign conveyance documents;
    - B) The amount of sales and date of final payment of cemetery lots, graves, spaces, mausoleums, columbaria, crypts, lawn crypts, or niches for which payment has been made in full and instruments of conveyance have been issued during the preceding calendar year;
    - (C) The amounts paid into the permanent maintenance fund;
    - (D) The income received from the fund during the preceding calendar year;
    - (E) The total amount owed to the fund;
    - (F) The amounts owed to the fund at the date of the report;
    - (G) The amount expended for care and maintenance of the cemetery;
    - (H) The names and addresses of the owners of the cemetery company or the officers and directors of the company and stating any change of control that has occurred during the past calendar year, the date of incorporation, and the resident agent and resident agent's office if the cemetery company is a corporation; and
    - (I) Any other information the board requires.
- (b) The report shall be accompanied by:
- (1) A filing fee of three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325); and
  - (2)
    - (A) A fee of seven dollars (\$7.00) for each burial sale contract entered into during the preceding calendar year by the cemetery company regardless of the number of spaces sold under the contract regarding lots, grave spaces, mausoleums, columbaria, crypts, lawn crypts, and niches.
    - (B) The burial sale contract fee under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section is not required for a burial sale contract of an interment in an infant interment garden that complies with § 20-17-1030.
- (c)
- (1) If the cemetery company does not timely file its annual report, the board may require the cemetery company to pay an additional contribution to the permanent maintenance fund of no more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day until the report is filed with the board.

- (2) If the cemetery company refuses to pay the contribution or fees, the board shall institute suit to recover the penalty and fee and costs and such other relief as the state in its judgment deems proper.
- (3) If the cemetery company shall fail to meet the requirements of this section, then the board shall apply to the Pulaski County Circuit Court for the proper order to require a report.
- (d) The beginning and ending dates of the report shall coincide with the dates of the report of the trustee required in § 20-17-1015.
- (e) Upon receipt of a properly completed annual report from the trustee and the cemetery company, the board shall issue to the cemetery company an annual operating permit which shall be prominently displayed at the main entrance to the cemetery.

HISTORY: Acts 1977, No. 352, § 19; A.S.A. 1947, § 82-426.19; Acts 2005, No. 2169, § 4; 2011, No. 590, §§ 11, 12; 2013, No. 390, § 7; 2017, No. 788, § 55.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1025. Protection of cemeteries – Power to lend.**

- (a) The State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services shall maintain a segregated fund within its general operating fund to be known as the Insolvent Cemetery Loan Fund, which shall be administered by the Insurance Commissioner and only used to lend a court-appointed receiver or conservator the funds necessary to assure that a cemetery will be properly maintained and will continue to be a going concern, including the funds necessary to pay a reasonable surety bond premium that is required to be posted by the court.
- (b) The board may take any legal action necessary against a cemetery company, receiver, or conservator to recover funds loaned by the board to or for the benefit of the cemetery, cemetery company, receiver, or conservator for the payment of maintenance expenses or unpaid loans.
- (c) Disbursement from the Insolvent Cemetery Loan Fund for loans to a receiver or conservator shall be made on a “first in, first out” basis as determined by the commissioner.
- (d) The commissioner may accept donations to the board from any cemetery company, organization, or individual to fund loans under this section.
- (e) The board may waive payment or extend the payment period for a loan made to a receiver or conservator if the board determines that it is unlikely that the receiver or conservator has or will receive sufficient funds to repay the loan and that the funds were or are needed to maintain and operate the cemetery for the benefit of the lot owners and the general public.
- (f) Any funds that accumulate in the Insolvent Cemetery Loan Fund in excess of one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) may at the request of the board be transferred to the Insolvent Cemetery Grant Fund under the Insolvent Cemetery Grant Fund Act, § 20-17-1301 et seq.

HISTORY: Acts 1997, No. 295, § 11; 2001, No. 1242, § 5; 2009, No. 429, § 2; 2017, No. 788, § 56; 2021, No. 731, § 12.

---

ARKANSAS PERPETUALLY MAINTAINED CEMETERY LAW  
ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED (A.C.A.) TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 2, CHAPTER 17, SUBCHAPTER 10  
**UPDATED THROUGH THE 2023-2ND REGULAR SESSION**

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1026. Annual Permit fee.**

- (a) Within seventy-five (75) days after the end of the calendar year, each permit holder shall pay to the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services a permit renewal fee in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100).
- (b) All annual permit fees shall be classified as general funds of the board and shall be used to make loans to receivers and conservators as provided in § 20-17-1025.

HISTORY: Acts 2001, No. 1242, § 6; 2005, No. 2169, § 5; 2017, No. 788, § 57; 2021, No. 731, § 13.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1028. Contracts with municipality or county where a cemetery is located.**

(a)

- (1) The State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services may contract with the municipality or county where a cemetery is located for the care and maintenance and the operation of the cemetery.
- (2) Services relating to the care and maintenance and the operation of the cemetery include without limitation:
  - (A) The sale and conveyance of lots;
  - (B) The opening and closing of graves;
  - (C) The preparation of financial reports and legal documents;
  - (D) The maintenance of driveways;
  - (E) The removal of trash and debris;
  - (F) The cutting of grass;
  - (G) The planting and care of trees, shrubs, and flowers; and
  - (H) The necessary improvements to streets, avenues, walks, or other public grounds of the cemetery.
- (3) The municipal or county government may subcontract with qualified persons to provide services under this section.

(b)

- (1) If the board contracts with a municipality or county under this section, the municipality or county, in addition to complying with any applicable statute, shall file with the board in March of each year a financial report showing all moneys received and expended during the preceding year, including without limitation:
    - (A) The date of receipt of all moneys;
    - (B) The source from which the moneys were received;
    - (C) All moneys paid out;
    - (D) The date the moneys were paid out;
    - (E) The person to whom the moneys were paid out; and
    - (F) The purpose of the payment.
  - (2) At the end of each calendar year, the municipality or county shall review the fiscal position of the cemetery and direct any excess moneys to the permanent maintenance fund.
- (c) For the purposes of this section, a municipality or county may accept funds from public and private entities and direct the funds to:
- (1) General maintenance and improvement; or
  - (2) The permanent maintenance fund.
- (d) The state, a city, or a county shall be immune from liability in contract or in tort for actions taken to implement this section.

HISTORY: Acts 2007, No. 430, § 3; 2017, No. 788, § 59.

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1030. Infant interment gardens.**

(a) A cemetery company may maintain an infant interment garden if:

- (1) The cemetery company provides the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services a letter of intent to establish an infant interment garden and a map of the location for the infant interment garden;
- (2) The infant interment garden is made available to the public and to existing families and property owners of the permitted cemetery on a non-discriminatory basis;
- (3) No charge is made to the family, next of kin, or any agency for the space, interment, and opening and closing services;
- (4) The infant interment garden complies with the rules and regulations of the cemetery on file with the board; and
- (5) The conveyance and recordkeeping requirements of § 20-17-1019 and § 20-17-1022 are satisfied for each interment in the infant interment garden.

(b) An infant interment garden that complies with this section is not subject to the deposit requirements of § 20-17-1016.

HISTORY: Acts 2011, No. 590, § 13; 2017, No. 788, § 61.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 10. Cemetery Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries

**§ 20-17-1031. Perpetual care cemetery – Duty to maintain.**

(a) A cemetery company that holds a permit to own and operate a perpetual care cemetery under § 23-61-1101 et seq. shall properly care for, maintain, and preserve the perpetual care cemetery.

(b) A cemetery owner is not responsible for faulty monument installation and upkeep by a monument company or other third party.

History: Acts 2023, No. 509, § 1.

---

ARKANSAS PERPETUALLY MAINTAINED CEMETERY LAW  
ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED (A.C.A.) TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 2, CHAPTER 17, SUBCHAPTER 13  
**UPDATED THROUGH THE 2023-2ND REGULAR SESSION**

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17.  
Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 13. Insolvent Grant Fund Cemetery Act

**§ 20-17-1301. Title.**

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Insolvent Cemetery Grant Fund Act."

HISTORY: Acts 2009, No. 429, § 3.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 13. Insolvent Grant Fund Cemetery Act

**§ 20-17-1302. Findings and purpose.**

The General Assembly finds that:

- (1) Perpetual care cemeteries provide historical and cultural benefits to the citizens of the State of Arkansas; and
- (2) A grant program should be established to assist a perpetual care cemetery that is insolvent or in financial distress for its care and improvement.

HISTORY: Acts 2009, No. 429, § 3; 2015, No. 990, § 1.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 13. Insolvent Grant Fund Cemetery Act

**§ 20-17-1303. Insolvent Cemetery Grant Fund.**

An Insolvent Cemetery Grant Fund is established within the general operating fund of the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services for the care and improvement of a perpetual care cemetery that is insolvent or in financial distress as determined by the board.

HISTORY: Acts 2009, No. 429, § 3; 2015, No. 990, § 1; 2017, No. 788, § 62.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 13. Insolvent Grant Fund Cemetery Act

**§ 20-17-1304. Powers and duties of State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services.**

The State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services shall:

- (1) Review and grant or deny all or part of a grant application submitted under this subchapter; and
- (2) Establish by rule:
  - (A) Criteria for grant applications and awards;
  - (B) Oversight of all grant expenditures;
  - (C) Criteria for reporting and maintaining all grant moneys and expenditures; and
  - (D) Criteria for the review of grant awards and expenditures to prevent misuse or abuse of grant money.

HISTORY: Acts 2009, No. 429, § 3; 2017, No. 788, § 63.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 13. Insolvent Grant Fund Cemetery Act

**§ 20-17-1305. Eligibility for grants – Definition.**

(a)

(1) As used in this section, “eligible organization” means an organization that agrees to provide for the care and improvement of a perpetual care cemetery that is insolvent or in financial distress as determined by the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services.

(2) “Eligible organization” includes a nonprofit organization which is exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(b) An eligible organization is eligible to receive a grant under this subchapter for the care and improvement of a perpetual care cemetery if the perpetual care cemetery:

(1) Has historical significance to the local community or the State of Arkansas; or

(2) Is insolvent or in financial distress.

HISTORY: Acts 2009, No. 429, § 3; 2015, No. 990, § 2; 2017, No. 788, § 64; 2021, No. 343, § 3.

---

ARKANSAS PERPETUALLY MAINTAINED CEMETERY LAW  
ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED (A.C.A.) TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 2, CHAPTER 17, SUBCHAPTER 13  
**UPDATED THROUGH THE 2023-2ND REGULAR SESSION**

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17.  
Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 13. Insolvent Grant Fund Cemetery Act

**§ 20-17-1306. Application.**

An eligible organization shall apply for grant payments under this subchapter according to the rules established by the State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services.

HISTORY: Acts 2009, No. 429, § 3; 2015, No. 990, § 2; 2017, No. 788, § 65.

---

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17. Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 13. Insolvent Grant Fund Cemetery Act

**§ 20-17-1307. Grant payments – Amount.**

- (a) The Insurance Commissioner shall make grant payments under this subchapter from:
- (1) Funds appropriated by the General Assembly for that purpose; or
  - (2) Excess funds transferred under § 20-17-1025 to the Insolvent Cemetery Grant Fund from the Insolvent Cemetery Loan Fund.
- (b) The State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services shall not grant more than thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) in a fiscal year to an eligible organization for the care and improvement of a perpetual care cemetery that is insolvent or in financial distress under this subchapter.

HISTORY: Acts 2009, No. 429, § 3; 2015, No. 990, § 3; 2017, No. 788, § 66.

---

ARKANSAS PERPETUALLY MAINTAINED CEMETERY LAW  
ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED (A.C.A.) TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 2, CHAPTER 17, SUBCHAPTER 13  
**UPDATED THROUGH THE 2023-2ND REGULAR SESSION**

Arkansas Code Annotated ► Title 20. Public Health and Welfare ► Subtitle 2. Health and Safety ► Chapter 17.  
Death and Disposition of the Dead ► Subchapter 13. Insolvent Grant Fund Cemetery Act

**§ 20-17-1308. Use of grant awards.**

A grant award under this subchapter shall be used by an eligible organization exclusively for the care and improvement of the driveways, buildings, and grounds of a perpetual care cemetery that is insolvent or in financial distress.

HISTORY: Acts 2009, No. 429, § 3; 2015, No. 990, § 4.

---