

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Disposition of Remains of Deceased Indigents

**Policy
Number**

E-7

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Purpose

To establish a policy with respect to the mode of disposition of the remains of deceased indigents.

Background

In the absence of instructions by the decedent, the surviving relatives of the decedent shall determine the mode of disposition of the decedent's remains, as described in Section 7100 of the Health and Safety Code. If, however, the legal next of kin fails to direct disposition, or if such person cannot be found after reasonable diligence, or the estate is insufficient to provide for interment of the decedent and the duty of interment does not fall on any other person pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 7105, then the Chief Medical Examiner is required by Health and Safety Code Section 7104 to arrange for the disposition of the decedent at County cost.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

In those cases in which the Chief Medical Examiner has no cogent reason to direct interment, disposition of the remains of identified indigents will be by means of cremation.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-25.

Previous Board Action

- 4-16-74 (69)
- 5-7-74 (44)
- 4-4-89 (51)
- 09-27-05 (1)
- 12-09-08 (33)
- 11-08-11 (2)
- 12-11-18 (06)

CAO Reference

1. Chief Medical Examiner