

# Cemetery Etiquette



- 1. Respect the space:** Cemeteries are places of peace and contemplation. Keep noise to a minimum, use hushed voices, and refrain from playing music or using electronic devices.
- 2. Observe visiting hours:** Most cemeteries have designated visiting hours. Groundskeepers and cemetery workers might need to work when the cemetery is closed and would appreciate your adherence to visiting hours.
- 3. Never walk over graves:** Stay on designated pathways and roads while walking through the cemetery. Avoid walking over graves and markers.
- 4. Clean up after yourself:** If you bring flowers or other items to leave at a grave, dispose of excess wrapping or containers properly. Do not leave anything behind other than permitted items. If there isn't a trash can nearby, carry your litter to dispose of later.
- 5. Be mindful about photos:** If you wish to take photographs, consider others' privacy and ask permission to include them or their belongings. Do not photograph funeral services or grieving families without their consent.
- 6. Respect personal items:** Some graves may have individual markers or mementos with special meaning to the family. Avoid touching or moving these items.
- 7. Leave pets at home (except for service dogs):** While some cemeteries allow leashed pets, it's best to leave them at home to maintain a peaceful atmosphere and avoid potential disruptions.
- 8. Monitor children:** Cemeteries are not playgrounds. Either plan for someone to watch your children or monitor their behavior closely.
- 9. Follow cemetery rules:** Every cemetery will have specific rules regarding decorations, flowers, and visitation. There may also be unique religious or cultural guidelines. Know and observe these rules to show respect for other visitors and their departed loved ones.