

# Flathead County Policy for Veteran allowance for Burial and Headstone placement:

MCA 10-2-501 indicates that counties are required to pay an allowance not to exceed \$500 to defer the interment expenses for a veteran resident in the county and an amount not to exceed \$100 toward the placement of a suitable headstone. MCA 10-2-101 defines a veteran as an honorably discharged individual who served on active duty with United States armed forces other than for training. On June 13, 2011, the Flathead County Board of Commissioners adopted resolution number 2296 increasing the maximum reimbursement allowance to \$500 and \$100 respectively for qualified veterans that are considered residents of Flathead County.

Flathead County's policy in compliance with this resolution and applicable law will require all of the following:

- 1) The representative completes a Flathead County Veteran Authorization & claim form.  
If multiple parties qualify for reimbursement, payment will be made on a first come first serve basis based on the date the application form is received by the county.
- 2) The applicant provides proof of payment for services.  
Proof of payment includes a copy of an invoice from the funeral home/headstone provider indicating full payment and identifying applicant as payer or a copy of the cancelled check from applicant.  
In the case of a prepaid funeral, the surviving spouse is entitled to reimbursement. In the absence of a surviving spouse, the deceased estate is entitled to reimbursement through probate. No reimbursement will be made to personal representatives or heirs.  
  
Indigent burials or estates that are being handled by Flathead County's Public Administrator are exempt from this proof of payment.  
  
Payments requested by either the Montana Veteran's home or the Montana National Cemetery are not required to provide proof of payment and may make application on behalf of their clients. They may also ask for direct payment to the funeral home or headstone provider.
- 3) Certification by Flathead County's veteran interment supervisor or their designee that the veteran has met all the requirements identified in MCA 10-2-101 and qualifies as a resident of Flathead County prior to their death.

Upon completion and verification of the above requirements, reimbursement will be made directly to the applicant. No reimbursements will be made to the funeral home or headstone place of business.

"Interment" has the meaning provided in MCA 37-19-101.

"Resident" is determined as provided in MCA 13-1-112.