

POLICY FOR DEFINING INDIGENT FOR PURPOSE OF BURIAL AT HAMB DEN TOWNSHIP'S EXPENSE

Generally:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with Ohio Revised Code §9.15(C) which mandates that a township must bury or cremate a body at the township's expense when the body is claimed by an indigent person. ORC §9.15(C) defines "indigent person" as someone whose income does not exceed 150% of the federal poverty line when adjusted to the correct family size.

This policy provides guidelines intended for use by the Hambden Township Board of Trustees when determining indigency status for the person claiming the body of a deceased person residing within the township. The guidelines below adhere to Ohio's indigency determination as set forth in ORC §9.15 and federal poverty threshold criterion.

Upon examination of the indigent person's financial data (in conformance with the guidelines below), the Board shall make a determination as to whether the claimant is indigent. 1) If the Application meets all requirements, Hambden Township shall bury or cremate the body of the indigent deceased; 2) If the Application meets all requirements, and the body of the indigent deceased is claimed for purposes of a private burial and the claimant attests in writing that he/she is solely responsible for and will pay all costs associated with burial of the indigent deceased, Hambden Township shall pay for the costs attributed to cremation or burial not to exceed \$ 2,500.00 as provided in the township's indigent burial policy, if applicable, and supply as appropriate marker with proper inscriptions as required by ORC §9.15.

Claimant's Indigency Status:

When determining indigency status of the person claiming the deceased's body, Hambden Township Board of Trustees shall consider gross income of all household members, minus the wage or salary income earned by dependent minors under 18 years of age.

Gross income includes:

Wages and earnings from employment, interest, annuities, pensions, Social Security, retirement, employment disability, public assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), alimony, child support, unemployment benefits, Workers' Compensation, and any other indirect income;

- Do not incorporate noncash benefits, i.e. food stamps and housing subsidiaries, or capital gains and losses.
- Calculate wages before taxes

The definitions set forth in Attachment A applies to this policy.

Claimant shall provide Hambden Township with the number and age of claimant's dependents. Claimant shall provide documentation of income.

Limitations:

The township shall not be responsible for burying or cremating any body found with Hambden Township, which is claimed by a person not found to be indigent.

All expenses made by a non-indigent claimant shall be paid for by the claimant.

When the claimant is determined to be indigent, the manner of cremation, burial, and aspects thereof shall be solely the decision of Hambden Township and in accordance with ORC §9.15.

An indigent person claiming a body may not make independent funeral arrangements and have the bill submitted to Hambden Township. Should this occur, Hambden Township is not liable for costs under these circumstances.

Public Records Notification:

Some of the records submitted by claimant, as part of the indigency determination process, may be confidential and not a public record under applicable State and Federal Law. Hambden Township will consult with legal counsel prior to releasing any such documents to third parties.

150% of the 2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Size of Household	Income Limit Yearly
1-Person	\$17,820
2-Person	\$24,030
3-Person	\$30,240
4-Person	\$36,450
5-Person	\$42,660
6-Person	\$48,870
7-Person	\$55,095
8-Person	\$61,335

Effective: **February 17, 2016** by **Resolution# 2016-020**