INDIGENT CREMATION

Who can apply?

Only the legal next-of-kin may request a county cremation.

For example: A man is married at the time of his death. If he is married, the legal next-of-kin is his spouse. If divorced or never married, it will be his adult children. If he has no adult children, then it will be his parents. If his parents are deceased, then it will be his siblings.

Who qualifies?

The legal next-of-kin must show proof of income and proof of the decedent's income and verification, upon request. The decedent must be a Kern County resident. Eligibility will be determined by Supervisory/Deputy Coroner staff.

How do I apply?

You can request paperwork at the Kern County Sheriff-Coroner’s Office located at 1832 Flower Street in Bakersfield [directly behind Kern Medical Center/ER and adjacent to the Kern Medical Center Pharmacy] and request paperwork on Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

What does it cost?

- Cremation and family picks up remains $243
- Cremation and interment at Union Cemetery $288
- Cremation and shipment within CA $243 plus $65 shipping fee
- Cremation and shipment outside CA $243 plus $75 shipping fee

Do I have to pay before cremation occurs?

Yes. Cremation charges are paid to Kern County Sheriff-Coroner. Shipping fees are paid directly to Union Cemetery.

How long does it take?

A cremation is not processed until all paperwork is completed. If legal next-of-kin includes siblings, paperwork will not be processed until ALL siblings show financial proof of income. If they all qualify, and the majority consent to the county cremation, the paperwork will be approved. The average length of time, regardless of legal next-of-kin, is several weeks. The deceased remains at the Kern County Sheriff-Coroner facility until the cremation occurs.

Where do I pick up the cremated remains?

Contact Union Cemetery directly to coordinate release of the remains, 324-9648. Union Cemetery is located at 730 Potomac Avenue, Bakersfield, CA.