



# Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

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*"Rich in Culture and Tradition"*

Equal Opportunity Employer

101 White Eagle Drive ▪ Ponca City, Oklahoma 74601 ▪ phone: (580) 76-8104 ▪ Fax: (580) 762-2743

RESOLUTION #: 07-02262026

## FORMAL RESOLUTION

### **Approving the Cemetery Burial Policies and Procedures for the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma**

**WHEREAS,** the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma (herein the "Ponca Tribe") is a federally recognized Tribe of American Indians with the headquarters located in White Eagle, Oklahoma; and

**WHEREAS,** the Business Committee of the Ponca Tribe (herein the "Business Committee") is authorized to conduct and transact all business of the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma consistent with the Constitution of the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma (herein the "Ponca Constitution") duly adopted on September 20, 1950, and amended from time to time thereafter; and

**WHEREAS,** the Business Committee is comprised of seven members, all Citizens of the Ponca Tribe who are eligible to serve as members of the Business Committee, and who have been duly elected to their positions and since election have been diligently performing their duties; and

**WHEREAS,** the Ponca Constitution vests executive, legislative, and judicial powers of the Tribe with the Business Committee; and

**WHEREAS,** the Ponca Tribe has developed Cemetery Burial Policies and Procedures to protect the integrity, availability, and provide regulation to the Ponca Tribal Cemetery; and

**WHEREAS,** the Ponca Tribe's constituency is to adhere to the policies herein; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Business Committee of the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, does hereby approve and adopt the Cemetery Policies and Procedures for the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma for immediate incorporation and enforcement thereof.

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## Cemetery Burial Policies and Procedures

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear procedures for the use, management, and protection of the Ponca Tribe's cemetery located at Riverview Rd and N3305 Rd. These policies respect tribal, spiritual beliefs, and federal requirements, while ensuring the land is preserved for current and future generations.

### II. Authority

This policy is established under the authority of the Ponca Tribe Business Committee and in compliance with federal trust land regulations, including but not limited to Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) oversight.

### III. Eligibility for Burial

1. Enrolled Ponca tribal members are eligible for burial.
2. Immediate descendants of tribal members may be eligible upon approval by the Cemetery Committee or Business Committee.

### IV. Cemetery Oversight

1. The Tribal Enrollment Office will maintain official burial records.
2. A Cemetery/Burial Committee will oversee maintenance, burial scheduling, and conflict resolution.
3. Groundskeepers or designated staff will ensure upkeep of the property in accordance with cultural and spiritual practices.

### V. Burial Plot

1. There is currently no burial plot fee. However, non-tribal members must pay a fee of \$500, a copy of that receipt will then need to be shown to the appropriate contact before burial arrangements will be made. Must be direct descendant of an enrolled tribal member or by marriage.
2. Families may request to be buried together in designated family sections, if space allows.
3. No private sale is permitted.

### VI. Burial Procedures

1. Notification – Families must notify the Enrollment Tribal Office within 48 hours of a death to begin burial arrangements. One point of contact will be required
2. Documentation – Required documents include:
  - Death certificate (if available at time of burial)
  - Proof of tribal enrollment or family relationship
3. Scheduling – Burials will be scheduled in consultation with the family, and enrollment.

4. Cultural/Spiritual Considerations – Traditional Ponca practices and customs shall be respected in all burial services.
5. Gravesite Preparation –
  - Excavation will be coordinated by Tribal staff or contracted workers.
  - Vaults/caskets must comply with local/state health requirements.
6. Markers/Headstones – Families are responsible and encouraged for providing markers.

## **VII. Prohibited Activities**

1. No unauthorized burials, exhumations, or movement of remains.
2. No family pets, livestock, or animals of any kind may be buried in the cemetery.
3. No alcohol, drugs, or disruptive behavior on cemetery grounds.
4. No construction of permanent structures without Tribal approval.
5. No defacing of graves, markers, or cultural property.

## **VIII. Maintenance and Care**

1. The Tribe will provide routine maintenance (mowing, trash removal, basic repairs).
2. If an enclosure is placed, the family is responsible for upkeep.
3. Families are responsible for individual grave upkeep (decorations, flowers, wreaths, etc.) unless they obstruct maintenance.
4. Seasonal decorations may be removed at the discretion of maintenance staff after 30 days.

## **IX. Violations and Penalties**

1. Any violation of this policy, including unauthorized burials, vandalism, or prohibited activities, may result in fines, restitution, or jail time under the Tribe's Code of Laws.
2. The Cemetery Committee will refer violations to the Tribal Court for enforcement.
3. The Business Committee reserves the right to set fine amounts and sentencing guidelines consistent with Tribal law and federal trust land regulations.

## **X. Dispute Resolution**

Any disputes regarding eligibility, burial location, or procedures will be reviewed by the Cemetery Committee. Appeals may be made to the Business Committee, whose decision will be final.

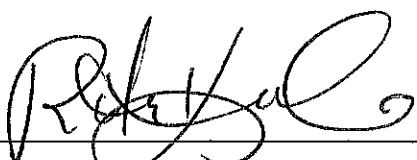
## **XI. Amendments**

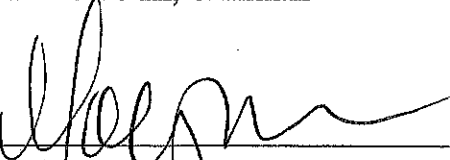
This policy may be amended by Ponca Tribe Business Committee to reflect cultural, spiritual, or administrative needs.

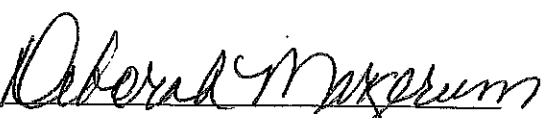
**CERTIFICATION**

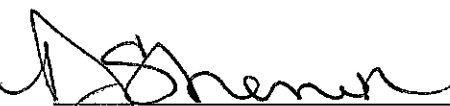
We, the undersigned, hereby affirm that an official meeting of the Ponca Tribal Business Committee, held on the 26<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2026, at which a quorum was present, the above resolution was presented and approved by a vote of 5 FOR; AGAINST; 2 ABSENT; \_\_\_\_\_ABSTAIN.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Earl Howe III, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rita Kemble, Vice-Chairwoman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Molly Kemble, Secretary/Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Margerum, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Sherron, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leota White, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carla Carney, Member