

**HILLSIDE CEMETERY OF SAMPTOWN**  
**1400 NEW MARKET AVENUE**

Owned and operated by

*First Baptist Church of South Plainfield*

**201 HAMILTON BOULEVARD**  
**SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080**  
**908-753-2382**

January 1, 2023

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

**HILLSIDE CEMETERY OF SAMPTOWN RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

The Board of Trustees of the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield has amended and approved the following rules and regulations governing the administration of the Hillside Cemetery of Samptown:

**COVID-19 RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS:**

We request that the following Covid-19 requirements be followed during burials at Hillside Cemetery of Samptown. We reserve the right to modify our Covid-19 requirements as needed or in the event of a declared Covid-19 / Public Health Emergency.

1. All burial attendees and cemetery visitors should wear face protective masks while on cemetery property.
2. All burial attendees should maintain 6-foot social distancing.
3. Hillside Cemetery volunteers or employees will not be able to assist with the burial or with parking cars.
4. Please provide cause of death if Covid-19 related prior to burial.

**GENERAL BURIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

1. The funeral home is responsible for obtaining the concrete vault, placing of the casket over the vault, the lowering of the casket into the concrete vault and sealing the vault.
2. Once the burial attendees have left the cemetery the grave will be filled in.
3. We request a minimum 72-hour notice for a burial to take place.
4. Due to limited parking on the cemetery roads, we are restricting the number of funeral procession cars that can come into the cemetery to **35** cars.

**GENERAL RULES:**

- Cemetery hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily. **NO admittance after cemetery is closed.**
- All cemetery activities, including but not limited to grave excavation and closing, Interment, Disinterment, memorial foundation construction must be performed by the Cemetery Superintendent or an authorized cemetery representative. **NO work is to be performed in the cemetery without written permission of the cemetery.**
- The purchase of a cemetery grave does not confer ownership of the land, but only a right in the nature of an easement to use the grave for burial of the dead for as long as the property continues to be used as a cemetery as provided by law.
- **ONLY live plants or live flowers are allowed to be planted within 12" of the front side of the monument stone or head of grave and within the grave. Trees or Shrubs are not permitted on any grave or plot. The cemetery management reserves the right to prune or remove any existing planting not in compliance.**
- **PLEASE NOTE: Due to routine cemetery lawn and weed cutting, live plants or flowers may be destroyed and are not the responsibility of the cemetery. All planting of live plants or flowers are the responsibility of the person planting such items. The cemetery is not responsible for any plantings done by others.**
- **HOLIDAY DECORATIONS: Christmas grave blankets or wreaths are permitted during the Christmas Holiday and should not exceed the width of the grave. Palm crosses are permitted for Easter. All holiday decorations will be removed by cemetery personnel, if not previously removed by the family. Holiday decorations will be removed as soon as feasible.**

## HILLSIDE CEMETERY OF SAMPTOWN RULES AND REGULATIONS (Continued):

- **BECAUSE OF SAFETY and ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, NO MANMADE ITEMS OR ADORNMENTS ARE PERMITTED ON OR NEAR ANY GRAVE SITES or in any part of the cemetery.** This includes but is not limited to the following:
  - No plastic or silk flowers.
  - No balloons. No statues or stuffed animals
  - No metal, plastic, wire, or wood items.
  - No homemade monuments or statues
  - No above ground vases. In ground, retractable, flush mounted vases are allowed but must be stored in the ground when not in use.
  - No glass ornaments or candles or any glass articles.
  - No benches, fences, stones, wood chips, railings etc. are allowed.

**If any of the above items are found at a grave site, they will be removed by cemetery personnel.**

- **DUE TO SAFETY AND INSURANCE LIABILITY REASONS**, the placement of crushed stone, stone, gravel, wood chips or shells on graves is prohibited. These materials along with the man-made items listed are destructive to mowing machines and equipment. They can cause serious injury to visitors and workers when they become dangerous projectiles hurled by mower blades. These materials along with the other hazardous or unauthorized materials listed, that would be considered unsafe to the operation of the cemetery, will be removed, and discarded without notice and disposed of by cemetery management. This includes plants, bushes, and trees, and any of the items listed above.
- **A permanent flush mounted or upright headstone / monument, purchased and installed by a monument company is required for all grave sites. Temporary markers are not considered permanent headstones / monuments.**
- Foundations are required and constructed by cemetery personnel prior to the installation of all headstones and monuments by the monument company. (Weather and ground conditions permitting)
- **The cemetery is not responsible for lost, missing, stolen or damaged temporary markers, damaged or fallen headstones / monuments or for cleaning the headstones / monuments. The upkeep of the headstone / monument is the responsibility of the family of the deceased.**
- NO pesticides allowed as defined by N.J. pesticide control code N.J.A.C. title 7 chapter 30, or undated version.
- NO monument foundations will be installed, or openings completed until all prior bills are paid in full.
- NO alcohol or drugs allowed. NO ball or game playing of any kind is allowed. NO photography or video except under rules of title 3 3:41-7.3, or updated version.
- NO spreading or unauthorized burying of cremated remains or other items.
- Every effort, weather and ground conditions permitting, will be made to put topsoil and seed on the graves once the burial grave stops settling. Graves will be leveled. Topsoil and seed will be added, as needed, and as determined by the Cemetery Superintendent or an authorized cemetery representative, up to one (1) year after interment.
- Funeral flowers will be removed by the cemetery personnel up to one (1) week following the interment service. Should members of the family wish to retain any floral arrangements, we respectfully suggest that this be done prior to the interment service.

### **GRAVE LOCATION RESEARCH CHARGE:**

Grave location research is completed by volunteer members of the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, owner and operator of the cemetery. Grave location research for up to 3 generations (parents, children, and grandparents) will be done at no charge. For grave location/genealogical research beyond 3 generations there is a charge of \$50.00. This charge is payable to the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield prior to completing the research. Please leave a message at 908-753-2382 ext.302 with questions. Your call will be returned within 72 hours.

These rules and regulations may be amended, changed, added to or repealed by the Board of Trustees at any meeting thereof, subject to title 8-A NEW JERSEY CEMETERY ACT, & TITLE 3 NEW JERSEY CEMETERY BOARD RULES AND REGULATIONS, or updated versions.