



## Cemetery Etiquette

Visiting a cemetery is a time of quiet reflection. These visits are more than just physical—they are spiritual and emotional ones as well. Cemeteries are imbued with personal history and emotion. Sometimes we can be unsure of how to behave in a cemetery. Here are some guidelines.

- Maintain a low profile—in behavior and sound.
- Maintain a quiet and respectful atmosphere.
- If children are present gently guide them, keeping conversation to a quiet voice or whisper.
- Respect Gravesites and Surroundings.
- Use designated walkways if possible and avoid stepping directly on graves or gravestones.
- Avoid taking rubbings of headstones. This can cause wear on the headstones especially the older ones. If you are able, take a photo instead.

Cemeteries are shared spaces. Be mindful of others' space and privacy. If you have children with you, tell a story about the person you are visiting, helping to frame the visit in a meaningful way for the younger generations.

Please be mindful of the cemetery rules and regulations. Especially when leaving tokens of remembrance.

Before you leave, survey the area around the gravesite and where you visited. Just as you arrive in quiet contemplation, you should leave the space as you find it, if not better.

Remember:

- Watching children and helping them understand
- Follow Cemetery Guidelines Respect Visiting Hours
- Follow Marked Roadways and Pathways
- Be Respectful by Keeping Quiet Around Visitors Do Not Take Photos of Funerals or Other Visitors Do Not Litter
- Do Not Walk Over Graves
- Do Not Disturb Flowers or Plants on Grounds

Whether you are visiting a cemetery alone or with family, your actions honor the memory of those who have passed on while supporting others who are navigating their own paths of remembrance and grief.