

Subject: New Income Support Funeral Benefit Rates

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BACKGROUND:

The Minister has approved new standard funeral benefit rates to ensure that families and loved ones of deceased Income Support household members and other eligible low income Albertans continue to have choice for a basic, dignified burial or cremation and funeral service for their loved one. The new rates are outlined in [Ministerial Order No. 2023-027](#).

Effective January 1, 2024, new standard funeral benefit rates have been set for the following:

- A funeral ceremony;
- Embalming, when deemed necessary by a licensed embalmer;
- Transportation and attendant services when travel is required outside of the funeral service provider's municipality; and
- An additional amount for safe sheltering, after 10 days, as an exception request.

The basic rate for funeral expenses for burial or cremation has been retained and has increased by the Alberta Consumer Price Index rate of 4.25 per cent.

Cemetery costs continue to be paid at the actual reasonable cost for a cemetery plot or an alternate resting place. A maximum rate has been introduced for alternate resting places, including a single columbarium niche or a mausoleum crypt.

To support the new rate structure, the funeral benefit application process has been streamlined from a two-step to a one-step process. The information on the payment direction form is now included in the application form, and the death certificate and finalized quotes or invoices will now be submitted with the application.

INTENT:

To update the policy to reflect the changes to the funeral benefit rate structure and new processes.

POLICY:

The following policies have been updated:

- [Funeral Benefits for Income Support Households](#)
- [Funeral Benefits for Low Income Albertans General Policy](#)

FORMS:

The following forms have been updated:

- [EMP12961 Funeral Benefits Application for Income Support Clients](#)
- [EMP12950 Funeral Benefits Application for Albertans with Low Income](#)

GUIDES:

The following guides have been updated:

- [Guide to Completing the Income Support Funeral Benefits Application](#)
- [Guide to Completing the SCSS Funeral Benefits Application](#)
- [Provider's Guide to the Funeral Benefits Application](#)