



FAMILY DISPOSITION OF HUMAN REMAINS (FAMILY BURIAL)

Wisconsin law allows a member of a decedent's immediate family to personally prepare and conduct the final disposition of the decedent. You will need to know and understand all your legal responsibilities, including filing all required documents, as described below and in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes. If you have additional questions about the legality of your intended plans for final disposition, you may want to seek legal counsel.

TYPE OF DISPOSITION	BASIC VITAL RECORDS FORMS	SUGGESTED CONTACTS
All types of disposition	Notice of Removal (if death occurs in a hospital, nursing home, or under hospice care at any location) Report for Final Disposition (this is the burial permit) Death Certificate Worksheet	State Vital Records Office for forms and instructions (contact information at the bottom) Note: Blank forms are only available to a requestor upon the death of an immediate family member.
Cremation	Cremation Release	County Coroner/Medical Examiner (C/ME) for signed permit Note: The C/ME may require a copy of the completed death certificate worksheet (with cause of death) prior to issuance of the permit.
Burial of body or cremated remains in a cemetery/mausoleum		Cemetery Sexton for authorization
Burial of body on private land		County Planning and Zoning Department for information on zoning restrictions Register of Deeds to find out how to record the gravesite on the land deed
Burial of cremated remains (if you plan on installing a permanent grave marker)		Wisconsin Burial Sites Preservation at 608-264-6464 or burialsites@wisconsinhistory.org

To view or print Wisconsin laws on disposition of human remains, refer to [Wis. Stat. § 69.18](#), [Wis. Stat. ch. 157](#), and [Subchapter VII of Wis. Stat. ch. 440](#).

The grid above identifies certain required vital records forms. The grid does not include other death-related legal forms and reporting requirements for all government agencies, financial institutions, or other entities.

For questions on completing the vital records forms, contact the State Vital Records Office at 608-266-1373 or DHSVitalRecords@wisconsin.gov.