



Pre-Need Plot Purchase Policy

Drafted February 2026; Reviewed by Tulare County Counsel

Adopted by the Tulare Public Cemetery District Board of Trustees on March 24, 2026

The Tulare Public Cemetery District (District) offers the pre-need sale of full casket, cremation and niche graves, collectively referred to as pre-need plots. This policy outlines the rules for the purchase of pre-need plots and payment options.

Pre-Need Purchase Overview

The purchase of a pre-need plot will include the cost of the specific full casket grave, half-grave, cremation plot or niche plus endowment fee. By purchasing a pre-need plot, the cost of the grave and endowment fee is locked in at the price of the date of purchase. If there is a price difference between the grave and endowment fee at the time of grave use, the price paid for both at the time of pre-need purchase will be honored. A \$300 pre-need administration fee will also be paid at the time of pre-need purchase.

Opening/closing fee, vault fee, burial administration fee, and any other associated burial fees will be due upon grave use. Pre-payment is not accepted on these burial services or items.

A Buyer may purchase more than one pre-need grave, with the \$300 pre-need administration fee applied to each grave. If a Buyer resides out of the district and wishes to be buried at one of the District's two cemeteries, they must have an immediate family member already buried at either the Kern Cemetery or North J Street Cemetery to be eligible for plot purchase and future burial. If the Buyer is from out of the district and does not have immediate family buried at one of the District's cemeteries but is originally from Tulare or has significant ties to the area, purchase of a grave for burial may be considered by the District's Board of Trustees on a case-by-case basis. Non-resident or out-of-district fees will apply at time of grave use.

Note: Any pre-payment packages or plans that were purchased prior to March 24, 2026 will be grandfathered in and honored according to the existing signed contract.

Purchase Options

Pre-need plots must be paid in full prior to grave use. If a Buyer wishes to purchase a plot but cannot pay the balance in full, the District offers a pre-payment plan option. If the pre-need plot is needed for use prior to fulfillment of a payment plan, the remaining balance will be included with the opening/closing, vault, burial administration and other fees due at the time of grave use. All fees must be paid in full prior to burial.

Full Payment

Pre-need plots and endowment fee may be paid in full with a personal check, cashier's check or money order made payable to Tulare Public Cemetery District for the full amount of the pre-need sale contract. Credit card payments are also accepted via All-Paid (credit card fees will apply). The District does not accept cash payments. Personal checks are only accepted for pre-need plot purchases, and a \$35 returned check fee will be charged for personal checks that do not clear the bank. A receipt will be provided when the pre-need plot, endowment fee and pre-need administration fee has been paid in full.

Refunds of Full Payment Purchases

Refunds of pre-need plot purchases paid in full will be in accordance with the District's Grave Buy Back Policy in place during the time the refund is requested. At the time of this policy's adoption, the District is not buying back graves. If the District reverses the Grave Buy Back Policy, this section of the Pre-Need Plot Purchase Policy will be amended.

Payment Plan

If an individual would like to pay for pre-need plot(s) via a payment plan, a contract between the District and Buyer will outline the plan requirements and must be signed by both the District Manager and the Buyer.

Down Payment: The endowment fee(s) and pre-need administration fee will be paid in full at the time of contract as the down payment for each pre-need plot purchased. This allows the District to deposit the endowment fee directly into the Endowment Fund account. In addition, a service fee calculated according to the principal amount and terms of the payment plan will be due as part of the down payment.

Principal Amount: The principal of the payment plan will be the amount of the plot(s). Buyer may have the option to incorporate the pre-need administration fee into the principal due, which will be calculated into the service charge.

Payment Plan Options: Payment plan contracts will include the options of one- or two-year payment terms as outlined below:

- One (1) Year (12 months) Contract – Service fee of 2% of principal amount due will be collected with the down payment.
- Two (2) Year (24 months) Contract – Service fee of 3% of principal amount due will be collected with the down payment.

Due Date: The amount of each monthly payment will be specified in the Pre-Need Payment Plan Contract Agreement and will be due on the 20th of each month. A late fee of \$25 will be charged if payment is not received by the end of a ten (10) day grace period.

Terms & Conditions: All terms and conditions of the payment plan are outlined in the Pre-Need Payment Plan Contract Agreement and shall be adhered to by both the Buyer and the District.

Payment Plan Refunds: If the Buyer wishes to cancel their pre-need plot purchase and pre-payment plan before the plot(s) is paid in full, the District will refund the principal amount collected to-date for the plot. The Buyer will forfeit the down payment (including the endowment fee and service fee) and the \$300 pre-need administration fee.

Accepted Forms of Payment

Full payments of pre-need plots or pre-payment plans (down payment and monthly) payments may be made in the following forms:

- Cashier's check or money order made payable to the Tulare Public Cemetery District
- Personal or business checks made payable to the Tulare Public Cemetery District.
 - Personal or business checks are ONLY accepted for pre-need plot purchases and pre-payment plans. A \$35 fee will be applied if the check is returned.
- Credit card payments are accepted via All-Paid with credit card fees applied.
- Cash is not accepted by the District at any time.

Payments may be delivered by the respective due date to the District office located at 900 E. Kern Avenue in Tulare, California.

Payments mailed via the U.S. Postal Service must be postmarked by the respective due date to avoid late fees, and mailed to: Tulare Public Cemetery District, 900 E. Kern Ave, Tulare, CA 93274



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