



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Rules for Columbarium Wall and Urn Plots

Rev. 1.0 May 2023



Definitions:

Niche : An individual chamber within a Columbarium Wall for the storage of human ashes in an urn. Each niche is provided with a covering granite/marble face plate and secured to the wall.

Columbarium Wall : A purpose-built wall for the housing of Niches.

Urn Plot : Consists of an allotment within a communal area delineated with a stone surround for the placement of a headstone and a grass plot area measuring 1m x 1m immediately outside the surround for the placement of an urn(s).

Rules:

- Galway County Council (Council) provides a right of burial service within a Columbarium Wall or Urn Plot in a number of burial grounds. Persons wishing to avail of this right may purchase a Niche or Urn Plot from Galway County Council through the Burial Ground Caretaker (Caretaker).
- The Columbarium Wall, Urn Plot and surrounding facilities are the property of the Council. The purchase of the right permits interment of human ashes only. No property ownership rights are vested as a result of the purchase of the service.
- The allocation of a Niche or Urn Plot will be made by the Caretaker. Both are allocated on a next available basis and cannot be purchased in advance.
- The onus is on the Caretaker to notify Galway County Council (telephone: 091 509510 or email environmentadmin@galwaycoco.ie) to inform them of sale of niche and provide details for issuing of invoice.
- Galway County Council will invoice the purchaser the cost of a niche / plot within two weeks of allocation and payment is to be made within two weeks of the invoice date. Receipt will be issued, and this will be presented to the Caretaker who will open the Niche for placement of Urn.
- The cost of a niche is €2,000 (which can hold up to 4 urns).
- All receptacles / urns for ashes are to be provided by the purchaser and must be sealed and made of non-perishable material.

- The Council reserves the right to approve the number and type of receptables/urns in each Niche or Urn Plot. Details on urn dimensions and allowable quantities will be available from the burial ground caretaker. The maximum number of urns per niche in any case is four.
- For Urn Plots the receptable/urn must be buried with a minimum of 30cm cover. The cover must be level with the existing ground level. The procurement of the headstone for the urn plot is the responsibility of the family / next of kin and must be to the specification issued by the Caretaker.
- The burial ground caretaker must be present for the removal and replacement of a Niche face plate and for the placement of the urn in a plot.
- An interment in a Columbarium Wall or Urn Plot will be recorded in the Register of Burials. Subsequent interments in the same niche or plot must also be recorded.
- Inscriptions on the Niche face plate and Urn Plot headstone will be the responsibility of the family / next of kin. Inscriptions must comply with the specification that will be available from the Caretaker.
- The ground outside the Urn Plot surround shall not be altered in any way in the interest of maintaining the grounds.
- The placing of memorabilia on the Columbarium Wall or Urn Plots will not be permitted. Fresh flowers will be permitted so long as they do not encroach onto neighbouring space and are removed when withered.
- The Council and its authorised agents reserve the right to remove non-compliant material from the Columbarium Wall and Urn Plots surroundings in order to maintain a safe and clean area and to provide a consistent and respectful service.