

## **Town of Deerfield, New Hampshire**

Updated April 21, 2023

### **Cemetery Etiquette**

When visiting a cemetery, there are several basic rules you should keep in mind in order to show respect to both the living and the dead. These tips will help to keep you out of trouble and make sure you and your fellow visitors enjoy a courteous, peaceful experience.

#### **Follow the Rules**

Most cemeteries have a sign posted near the entrance listing rules specific to the property. Follow the rules and observe any floral regulations they might have set.

#### **Obey the Hours**

Most cemeteries are open from dawn until dusk. Try not to remain in the cemetery after dark to avoid being charged with trespassing.

#### **Drive with Care**

Make sure to follow the roadways and remain off the grass. Drive slowly and watch out for people who might not be paying attention. If the lane is narrow and another car approaches, offer to move your car until the other driver can get through.

#### **Respect the Graves**

Take care to walk in between the headstones and avoid walking or standing on burial sites. Don't touch any monuments or headstones; this is not only disrespectful, but may cause damage to the memorials, especially older ones. Never remove anything from a gravestone, such as flowers, coins, or tributes that have been left by family.

#### **Look After Your Children**

If you bring children, make sure to keep a close eye on them and keep them from running, yelling, and playing or climbing on graves and monuments.

#### **Speak Softly and Politely**

Be respectful to other mourners: remember to keep your voice down when having conversations, and to avoid using bad language.

#### **Lower the Volume**

If you choose to bring it with you, take a moment to ensure that your phone is turned off. Avoid having phone conversations, as voices tend to carry in open spaces. Make sure to turn off your car stereo while driving or parking in the cemetery.

#### **Be Respectful of Services and Other Mourners**

If a funeral is occurring, take care not to get in the way of processions. Never take photos of strangers at a funeral or visiting a gravesite; it is extremely disrespectful to them in their time of grief. Respect their privacy and give them their space.