

Snoq. Tribal Code T. 13, Ch. 3, Refs & Annos

Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
Snoqualmie Tribal Code
Title 13. Social Services
Chapter 3. Snoqualmie Tribal Funeral Assistance Code

GENERAL NOTES

An Act Relating To Funeral Assistance

Be It Enacted By The Snoqualmie Tribal Council

Enacted by the Snoqualmie Tribal Council on the 12th day of January, 2012. Resolution No. 13–2012. Codified by the Secretary of Tribal Affairs on the 7th day of March, 2012.

Snoqualmie Tribal Code T. 13, Ch. 3, Refs & Annos, Snoq. Tr. Code T. 13, Ch. 3, Refs & Annos

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Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 1.0
Section 1.0. Title And Codification

Snoq. Tribal Code 13.3, § 1.0

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Section 1.0. Title And Codification

This Chapter shall be known as the Snoqualmie Tribal Funeral Assistance Code and shall be codified as Title 13, Chapter 3 of the Snoqualmie Tribal Code.

Snoqualmie Tribal Code 13.3, § 1.0, Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 1.0

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Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 2.0
Section 2.0. Statutory Authorization

Snoq. Tribal Code 13.3, § 2.0

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Section 2.0. Statutory Authorization

The aboriginal and inherent sovereign power of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe is vested in the Snoqualmie Tribal Council. The Snoqualmie Tribal Council has the authority to safeguard and promote the peace, safety, moral, and general welfare of the members of the Tribe by regulating the behavior of all persons within the jurisdiction of the Tribe, and to provide for the enactment and enforcement of the laws of the Tribe. This authority includes the Council's ability to adopt laws or resolutions intended to manage the economic affairs and enterprises of the Tribe, to set aside and to spend Tribal funds for Tribal purposes. Snoq. Tr. Const. Art. VIII, Sec. 1(a), (e), (f), (j), (o).

Snoqualmie Tribal Code 13.3, § 2.0, Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 2.0

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Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 3.0
Section 3.0. Policy

Snoq. Tribal Code 13.3, § 3.0

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Section 3.0. Policy

Subject to available funding and budget limitations, it is the policy of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe to provide a limited amount of funeral and travel assistance in an event of a death of a Snoqualmie tribal citizen. The Chief Financial Officer shall administer these benefits. The benefits outlined in this code do not apply to Snoqualmie tribal citizens who have died prior to the approval of this code.

Snoqualmie Tribal Code 13.3, § 3.0, Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 3.0

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Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 4.0

Section 4.0. Purpose

Snoq. Tribal Code 13.3, § 4.0

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Section 4.0. Purpose

The purpose of this Code shall be to:

- (a) Specify the criteria and procedures for providing funeral assistance to the families of deceased Snoqualmie tribal citizens;
- (b) Outline the guidelines for providing dinner assistance for a Snoqualmie tribal citizen funeral; and
- (c) Provide information on need-based travel assistance for tribal citizens to attend the funeral of immediate family members.
- (d) It is not the intent of this code to dictate how or where to bury, cremate, or entomb a deceased tribal citizen or how to conduct the funeral services. The intent is to dictate which costs will be paid for directly or reimbursed by the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe.

Snoqualmie Tribal Code 13.3, § 4.0, Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 4.0

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Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 5.0
Section 5.0. Definitions

Snoq. Tribal Code 13.3, § 5.0

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Section 5.0. Definitions

Chief Financial Officer means the Chief Financial Officer of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe.

Direct Funeral Expenses means only those expenses incurred as an expense necessary in order to facilitate the disposition of a deceased tribal citizen.

Domestic Partners means two adults of the same or opposite sex who: (1) are not first cousins or nearer of kin to each other, whether of the whole or half blood, whether by blood or adoption; (2) reside in the same household; and (3) present themselves to the community as a couple.

Family Unit means a group of people who are related to each other by blood, adoption, marriage, or domestic partnership and who reside at the same address.

Funeral Service Providers mean any business, group, or individual that provides a service for a funeral. The term does not include cooks, servers, singers, drummers, speakers, clergy (clergy expenses will be allowed as long as the fee is included in the funeral home invoice billing), spiritual advisors, pallbearers, and musicians.

Immediate Family Member means a mother, father, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, grandfather, grandmother, grandchild, or domestic partner, regardless of tribal membership. The immediate family member does not have to be a Snoqualmie tribal citizen.

Primary Contact means the person who is responsible for making the funeral arrangements, signing the work order at the mortuary, and paying any costs.

Tribal Citizen means an enrolled citizen of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, or a non-enrolled infant age two years or younger who is otherwise eligible for enrollment with the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe.

Snoqualmie Tribal Code 13.3, § 5.0, Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 5.0

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Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 6.0
Section 6.0. After Hours Notification

Snoq. Tribal Code 13.3, § 6.0

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Section 6.0. After Hours Notification

The Chief Financial Officer shall provide information to the public as to the procedures for obtaining assistance during hours when the offices of the Snoqualmie Tribe are not open for business.

Snoqualmie Tribal Code 13.3, § 6.0, Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 6.0

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Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 7.0
Section 7.0. Benefits

Snoq. Tribal Code 13.3, § 7.0

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Section 7.0. Benefits

7.1 Eligibility

- (a) Funeral Assistance Benefit. To be eligible for funeral assistance, the deceased must be an enrolled citizen of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, or a non-enrolled infant age two years or younger who is eligible for enrollment with the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe.
- (b) Dinner Assistance. Available to the primary contact person handling the funeral arrangements or their designee.
- (c) Travel Assistance. This benefit is only available to enrolled Snoqualmie Tribal citizens to attend the funeral of an immediate family member.
- (d) Headstones. To be eligible for the headstone benefit, the deceased must be an enrolled citizen of the Snoqualmie Tribe, or a non-enrolled infant age two or younger that is eligible for enrollment with the Snoqualmie Tribe.
- (e) Should funds become limited, the first benefits funded will be the funeral cost, the second will be the dinner assistance, and the third will be travel assistance.

7.2 Limitations Of Benefits

- (a) Funeral Assistance. The maximum amount the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe will pay for direct funeral expenses is \$8000.00 (eight thousand dollars) per tribal citizen death.
- (b) Dinner Assistance. The dinner allowance is \$250.00 (two hundred and fifty dollars) per funeral that is deducted from the \$8000.00 maximum benefit.
- (c) Travel Assistance. The maximum benefit for travel is \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) per tribal citizen for the funeral of an immediate family member. Special limitations are outlined in subsection 7.5. This benefit is deducted from the \$8000.00 maximum benefit.
- (d) Headstones. The maximum headstone benefit is \$250.00 (two hundred and fifty dollars) per tribal citizen. This benefit is deducted from the \$8000.00 maximum benefit.

7.3 Funeral Assistance Benefit

(a) Arrangements. The Chief Financial Officer is not responsible for any funeral arrangements. It is the sole responsibility of the family or other responsible party to make the arrangements for the funeral. These arrangements could include the following:

- (1) Time and date of funeral, dressing, religious, services, dinners, etc.;
- (2) Use of longhouse or church facilities;
- (3) Place of burial, cremation or interment, and location of grave within cemetery or location of urn within a mausoleum or columbarium;
- (4) Opening and closing of grave, mausoleum, columbarium, or other interment facility.
- (5) Paying for expenses that exceed the maximum funeral expense benefit.

(b) Notification. As soon as possible after death, the primary contact shall provide the Chief Financial Officer with the following information:

- (1) Full legal name of the deceased;
- (2) Date and place of death;
- (3) Date and place of funeral, burial, or cremation;
- (4) Primary contact person's name, address, and phone number;
- (5) Name(s) of next of kin, executor of estate or will, if any;
- (6) Veteran's information, including which branch of service and membership information in the VFW or American Legion, including what type of membership, if any, such as dues paying member, lifetime member, or auxiliary member.
- (7) Name and phone number of mortuary handling the funeral, if applicable;
- (8) Life insurance information that includes a burial benefit and/or any other burial insurance coverage;
- (9) Veteran benefit insurance information;
- (10) In the event of an automobile accident, the name, address, insurance provider, and policy number of the owner and/or driver of the automobile;
- (11) Any other documentation or information deemed necessary by the Chief Financial Officer.

(c) Allowable Costs. A maximum funeral benefit of \$8000.00 (eight thousand dollars) per tribal citizen shall be provided for direct funeral expenses, which include the following:

(1) Services provided by the mortuary, advances by the mortuary, for transportation of remains (including airfare if applicable), cremation costs;

(2) Caskets, grave liner boxes, vaults required by some cemeteries;

(3) Cremation urns;

(4) Two (2) death certificates purchased through the funeral home and sent to the Chief Financial Officer. One death certificate will be sent to the Snoqualmie Tribal Enrollment Department to be placed in the deceased Tribal citizen's enrollment file. Additional copies may be ordered, but the Snoqualmie Tribe will only cover the expense for two certificates;

(5) Cemetery costs (if any), one plot for the burial, fees for opening and closing of grave, mausoleum costs;

(6) Flowers (purchased as a cash advance through the funeral home whenever possible);

(7) One (1) Pendleton blanket used directly for burial or in the casket (purchased through the Snoqualmie Tribe if possible, and if not a receipt must be provided for reimbursement);

(8) Clothing for the deceased purchased as a cash advance, with a receipt provided for reimbursement.

(d) Costs Not Paid For By The Snoqualmie Tribe. The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe will not pay for any of the following:

(1) Any expense that exceeds the \$8000 limit per deceased;

(2) Death notices or obituaries;

(3) Giveaways, gifts or payment items, including expenses related to fees and/or gratuities for a funeral officiator, soloist, music, cooks, servers, drummers, etc.;

(4) Memorial or stone setting expenses;

(5) Any endowment care funds for the upkeep of cemetery plots, crypts, columbariums or mausoleums;

(6) Memorials.

(e) Billing and Payment.

(1) All payments will be made by the Tribe directly to the provider(s), except as noted in this subsection.

(2) Whenever possible, the family shall avoid the disclosure of the Snoqualmie Tribe's \$8000.00 assistance to the funeral home. The family is responsible for making all arrangements for the funeral, including the billing, and shall submit an itemized billing statement (invoice) to the Chief Financial Officer.

(3) In the event the funeral home requires pre-payment of expenses, the family shall notify the Chief Financial

Officer immediately. The Chief Financial Officer will then contact the mortuary and make arrangements for payment.

(4) Payments by the Snoqualmie Tribe will be made after all other benefits have been paid, such as veteran benefits or insurance.

(5) Payments by the Tribe will be made in the following order:

(A) The mortuary serving as the primary services provider;

(B) A secondary mortuary;

(C) Cemetery;

(D) Other service/goods provider.

(6) In the event the funeral costs have been paid in full prior to the Snoqualmie Tribe making a payment, the individual(s) who paid for the funeral will be entitled to a reimbursement for allowable expenses only up to a maximum of \$8000.00. The individual must provide proof of payment in full. If the individual who paid for the funeral is deceased, no reimbursement will be allowed to the family or the estate. All of the inclusions and exclusions that apply to the burial benefit will also apply towards funeral expenses that are reimbursed to the person who paid for the funeral.

(f) Prepaid Funerals. If a funeral for a tribal citizen has been prepaid, the Snoqualmie Tribe will reimburse up to \$8000.00 to the person that prepaid the funeral provided they submit receipts showing they paid the funeral expenses. If the expenses do not exceed the limit, the remainder of the \$8000.00 benefit will be made available to the family primary contact for direct funeral expenses upon the death of the tribal citizen. Should the benefit limit be increased in the future, the amount available at that time of the funeral will be the current limit, less the prepaid expenses. If the funeral has already taken place and the person who paid for the funeral is the deceased tribal citizen, no reimbursement will be made to the family or the estate of the deceased. All of the inclusions and exclusions that apply to the funeral assistance benefit will also apply towards funeral expenses that are prepaid.

7.4 Dinner Assistance

(a) Dinner assistance is available to the family to provide a customary dinner/lunch immediately following the funeral service. The intent of the funding is to provide the family with assistance in accommodating their desire to feed those community citizens who attend the funeral in respect of the departed.

(b) A maximum of \$250 (two hundred and fifty dollars) will be provided for dinner assistance per funeral. This amount shall be deducted from the \$8000.00 (eight thousand dollars) maximum benefit. There will not be any additional dinner assistance benefit allowed.

(c) The primary contact person shall determine and notify the Chief Financial Officer as to whom the check is to be issued. In order to produce a check, the Chief Financial Officer must have the name, social security number, a vendor's W-9 form filled out and signed, a tax payer's identification number and certification address, and telephone number of the person to whom the check is to be issued.

(d) The dinner shall be a public dinner at a church, longhouse, or similar facility. No dinner assistance will be provided for a private or family only dinner.

7.05 Travel Assistance

(a) The travel assistance benefit is available to enrolled tribal citizens of the Snoqualmie Tribe who have a death of an immediate family member and who otherwise, because of financial hardship, would not be able to attend the funeral services. Travel assistance will only be provided for tribal citizens traveling directly to and from the funeral. Travel distance will be based upon the mileage from the tribal citizen's address of record at the tribal enrollment office to the funeral.

(b) Automobile Travel. The Snoqualmie Tribe may provide gas money for one vehicle per family unit traveling directly to a funeral of an immediate family member. To qualify for this benefit, at least one person in the vehicle must be a citizen of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, who is also an immediate member of the family unit traveling in the vehicle. The amount allowed is calculated using the round trip mileage distance to the funeral, divided by 15 (average miles per gallon) then multiplied by the cost of the fuel at the nearest gas station to the Snoqualmie Tribal office and using the lowest price at the pumps, that day the request is made. The maximum amount allowed will be \$100.00. The Snoqualmie Tribe will not pay for local mileage. The travel distance must be at least sixty (60) miles one way from their address of record.

(c) Airline Travel. Airline ticket assistance will be the maximum of \$100.00 per tribal citizen traveling directly to a funeral of an immediate family member. Airline ticket receipts shall be turned into the Chief Financial Officer. The Tribal citizen must live no less than 250 (two hundred and fifty) miles, one way, to be considered for airline ticket assistance.

(d) Bus or Train. Assistance will be limited to the actual cost of the round trip fare or a maximum of \$100.00, whichever is less. There are no distance restrictions for bus or train travel.

(e) Disallowed Costs. The Snoqualmie Tribe will not be responsible for any maintenance to vehicles, fines, fees, hotels, meal costs and side trips incurred as part of the trip to and from the funeral.

(f) Travel Assistance Procedures.

(1) Request for travel assistance benefit must be in writing and submitted to the Chief Financial Officer.

(2) All requests must explain how/why the tribal citizen would be unable to attend the funeral due to financial hardship.

(3) Request must be made prior to travel to the funeral.

(4) Requests for reimbursement for a trip to a funeral already attended will not be honored under any circumstances.

(5) Approved requests will be processed and a check will be delivered to the tribal citizen prior to departure to the funeral, by mailing to their home, direct deposit, or making it available to be picked up at the tribal finance office.

(6) The Snoqualmie Tribe will not wire money to a tribal citizen.

Snoqualmie Tribal Code 13.3, § 7.0, Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 7.0

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Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 8.0
Section 8.0. Funeral Items Provided By The Snoqualmie Tribe

Snoq. Tribal Code 13.3, § 8.0

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Section 8.0. Funeral Items Provided By The Snoqualmie Tribe

(a) The Snoqualmie Tribe purchases Pendleton blankets from time to time and may have them on hand. Blankets used for funerals may be available for purchase from the Tribe.

(b) General Information.

(1) The primary contact has the sole authority to select the merchandise used for the funeral.

(2) Items selected for use in the tribal citizen's funeral are deducted from the \$8000 (eight thousand dollar) maximum benefit prior to any other service being paid.

(3) The primary contact or their designee may select one (1) blanket to be used directly for the funeral.

(c) Headstone Purchase.

(1) The primary contact person or designee may select a headstone from any vendor. After the selection is made, they must notify the Chief Financial Officer as to the total cost and the vendor's name. The primary contact person must also provide the address and a copy of the vendor's W-9 or tax payer identification number and certification.

(2) The Snoqualmie Tribe will make a one-time payment of up to \$250.00 towards the cost of the headstone. Payment will be made directly to the vendor. This benefit is deducted from the \$8000.00 (eight thousand dollar) maximum funeral assistance benefit.

(3) All headstones purchased through this benefit must be purchased within one year after the death of the tribal citizen.

(4) In the event the headstone was already paid for prior to the Snoqualmie Tribe making the payment, a receipt must be submitted in order to provide reimbursement. If the person who has prepaid the stone is the deceased, no reimbursement will be made to the family or the estate of the decedent.

(d) Costs.

(1) The costs of all items supplied by the Snoqualmie Tribe and used for the tribal citizen is deducted from the \$8000 (eight thousand dollar) maximum benefit prior to any other payments being made.

(2) Items purchased from the Snoqualmie Tribe for the funeral of a tribal citizen requires an authorization voucher. This voucher is available for one (1) Pendleton blanket. Items purchased without an authorization voucher will not be paid. The amount paid for a blanket is not to exceed \$150.00 (one hundred and fifty dollars).

(3) Items used for tribal citizen's funerals are priced at cost to the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe.

(4) Items may be purchased by tribal citizens for non-tribal citizen funerals. These items will be priced at the cost to the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe.

(5) Non-tribal citizens and employees may purchase blankets at a 25% markup above Snoqualmie Tribe's cost.

(e) Payments for Funeral Items.

(1) If the person is a tribal citizen making the purchase, they must make the payment in full.

(2) If the person making the purchase is a tribal citizen and an employee, they must make the payment in full or sign a payroll deduction authorization to have the entire payment taken out of their next payroll check.

(3) If the person making the purchase is neither a tribal citizen nor an employee, payment must be made prior to the merchandise being released. There are no exceptions to this requirement.

Snoqualmie Tribal Code 13.3, § 8.0, Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 8.0

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Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 9.0
Section 9.0. Severability

Snoq. Tribal Code 13.3, § 9.0

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Section 9.0. Severability

The provisions of this Chapter are severable and if any part or provision shall be held void by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of the court so holding shall not affect or impair any of the remaining parts or provisions of this Chapter.

Snoqualmie Tribal Code 13.3, § 9.0, Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 9.0

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Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 10.0
Section 10.0. No Waiver Of Sovereign Immunity

Snoq. Tribal Code 13.3, § 10.0

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Section 10.0. No Waiver Of Sovereign Immunity

Nothing herein shall constitute a waiver of the Tribe's sovereign immunity.

Snoqualmie Tribal Code 13.3, § 10.0, Snoq. Tr. Code 13.3, § 10.0

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