

Date Provided: 6 July 2018

## Maximum coffin and burial plot size

Ref: EFOI / 7177

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### Information Request and Response by Eastbourne Borough Council

- 1) *Do you have any rules or regulations regarding maximum coffin size for burial (width and length) and if so what are they?*

Eastbourne Borough Council does not have rules or regulations restricting coffin size for burial although if the coffin or casket is particularly large alternative means to safely lower the coffin will be considered for health and safety reasons.

- 2) *Do you have any rules or regulations regarding maximum burial plot size (width and length) and if so what are they?*

The council does not have rules or regulations regarding a maximum size grave plot; however, grave sections are marked out on plans which are required to be kept by the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 (LACO). To keep the plans and records of actual burial positions accurately, we use a standard overall grave plot size. Our adult grave plots measure 9ft by 4ft. Small children's and baby graves 6ft by 3ft. The actual grave itself (i.e. the excavated hole) is dug within that space to ensure the mid-feathers (grave wall either side of the grave excavation) remain solid stable. Grave shoring is also used. Should a coffin be received that is too big for a single space to be excavated leaving sufficient mid-feathers, then two spaces may need to be purchased to allow for safe digging, stable mid feathers and finally safe lowering of the coffin.