

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a network of white lines and circles on a blue background, resembling a circuit board or a tree structure.

COUNTY FUNERALS

OVERVIEW OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF WELFARE OFFICIALS
IN REGARDS TO INDIGENT FUNERALS

STATUTES RELATED TO BURIALS

- Chapter 28-17: County Burial
- Chapter 33A-5: Burial of Veterans
- Chapter 34-26: Custody & Disposition of Bodies and Body Parts
- Chapter 34-26A: Crematories & Cremations
- Chapter 34-27: Crematories & Burial Records

FUNERALS STATUTES

- Chapter 28-17 (1-6): County Burial
 - Funeral expense paid by county of residence or where death occurred. If no residence can be determined for the deceased person, funeral expenses borne are paid by county in which the death occurred.
 - (28-17-3) county decides disposition of body in absence of next of kin.
 - If deceased was an honorably discharged veteran, expenses paid as provided in chapter 33A-5.
 - Sum paid to be established by resolution of the county board of commissioners at the annual organizational meeting.

FUNERAL STATUTES

- Chapter 33A-5: Burial of Veterans
 - Recent statutes (2018) created SD State Veterans Cemetery operating fund. City of Sioux Falls donated land to establish a state veteran's cemetery in Minnehaha County.
 - Non-Service connected death: Up to \$796 in burial allowance and up to \$796 plot allowance if person passed in VA Medical facility. \$300 towards funeral & burial if veteran was not in VA facility at time of death.
 - Visit w/your local VSO for assistance.

FUNERALS STATUTES

- Chapter 34-26: Custody & Disposition of Bodies
 - Duty of burying the body of a deceased person: 1) spouse, 2) person or persons in the same degree of nearest of kin, of adult age and residing within this state and with means to pay
 - If person first responsible fails to assist with burial “within a reasonable time” this duty devolves to the next person specified. If all omit to act, duty to bury falls to county of legal residence, or, if unknown, to the county where the deceased was found
 - Failure to make burial as misdemeanor – civil liability for treble expenses.
 - Notice to medical school of unclaimed body

UNCLAIMED BODIES

- No one can be located for the deceased – requires investigation by county staff
- Relatives or friends who are **unwilling** to defray expenses
- Signing cremation authorization for unclaimed remains even when county is not assisting financially (34-26-16 & 34-26A-2)

FUNERALS STATUTES

Chapter 34-26A: Crematories & Cremations

- * Public official as authorizing agent in absence of any other person to order cremation (spouse, parent, child, close relative, friend).
- * Cremation authorization form signed by authorizing agent.
- * Unclaimed cremated remains kept for 30-day period before disposal of remains.
- * Disposal of cremated remains

FUNERAL STATUTES

- Chapter 34-27: Cemeteries & Burial Records
 - MC has their own cemetery and contracts with a funeral director so he is responsible to ensure burials are done at the county cemetery in accordance with the statutes
 - MC current allowances:
 - \$3000 for traditional funeral/memorial service with burial
 - \$2000 for cremation with or without memorial service

SCREENING TOOL

Minnehaha County Human Services

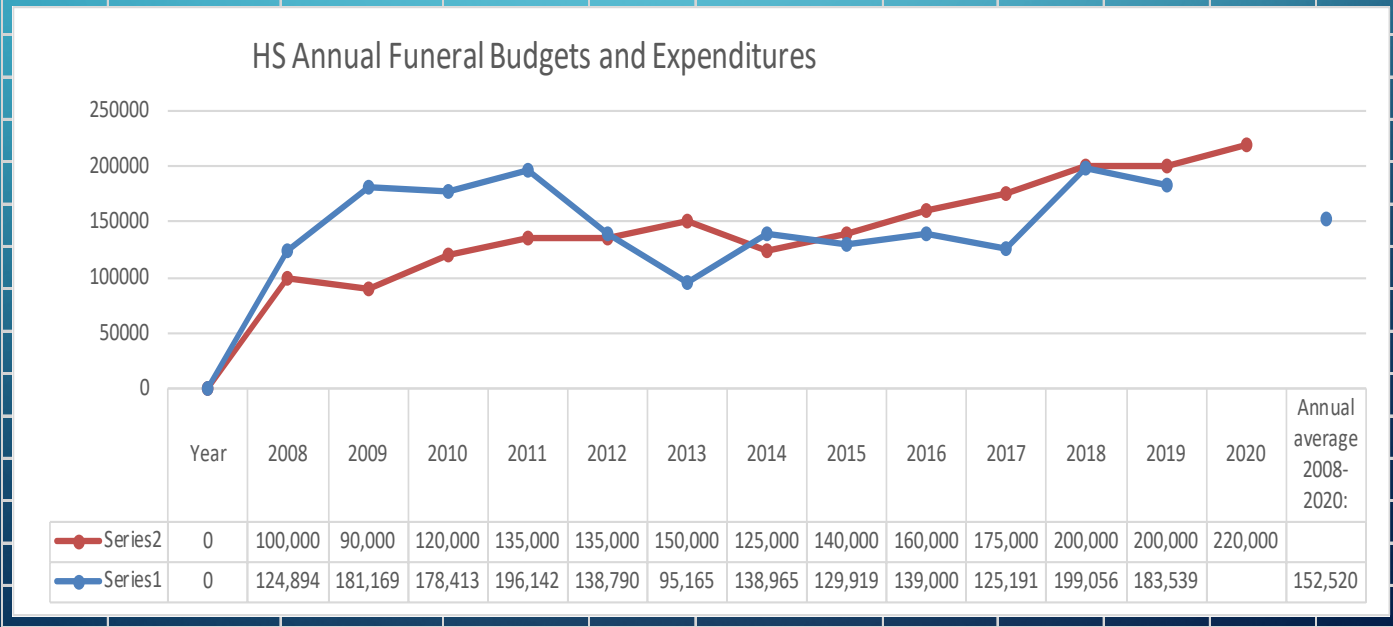
Screening Tool for Funeral/Burials

We recognize that this is a difficult time for your family. As you make decisions and sort through options, it is possible that Minnehaha County may be able to provide financial assistance. This screening document is not a final determination if the County will help, but rather will assist you in determining if you should apply for assistance, and if you do apply, what documents you will need, along with your options. The funeral home director will be able to help you clarify or please call MCHS at 605-367-4217.

MINNEHAHA COUNTY PROCEDURES

- County payment must be authorized prior to the funeral home providing any service.
- County payment is considered payment in full and no supplementing may be done.
- If deceased or next of kin has resources equal to or in excess of amount county will pay, request can be denied.
- County lien placed on assets of surviving spouse or parent of a minor.

FUNERALS		HUMAN SERVICES		3/3/2020 11:07	
Year	Orig.Budget	Expense			
2008	100,000	124,894			
2009	90,000	181,169			
2010	120,000	178,413			
2011	135,000	196,142			
2012	135,000	138,790			
2013	150,000	95,165			
2014	125,000	138,965			
2015	140,000	129,919			
2016	160,000	139,000			
2017	175,000	125,191			
2018	200,000	199,056			
2019	200,000	183,539			
2020	220,000				
Annual average 2008-2020:		152,520			



The background is a solid teal color with a subtle gradient. In the four corners, there are decorative white line-art patterns resembling circuit traces or neural network connections. These patterns consist of straight lines of varying lengths and angles, ending in small white circles.

CASE EXAMPLE/ACTIVITY