Indigent Burials by County
Compiled by the South Dakota Funeral Directors Association
(revised as of September 2018)

AURORA COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,500 for services including casket
Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container: Invoice for cost of outside container (must provide invoice)
Cemetery and Interment: $150 for opening & closing of grave (less social security & veteran benefits)
Transportation/Mileage: Mileage at .42 cents per mile. Over 50 miles, outside of SD with prior approval for county residents only – subject to law
Merchandise:
Other:

BEADLE COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,750.00
Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container: $550.00 if required
Cemetery and Interment: $300 if equipment on site. $400 within Beadle County if equipment not on site. $200 for cremated remains.
Transportation/Mileage: .50 cents outside of county
Merchandise:
Other:

BENNETT COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,850 flat fee
Traditional Service: N/A
Cremation Service: $1,200.00
Outside Container: N/A
Cemetery and Interment: N/A
Transportation/ Mileage: N/A
Merchandise: N/A
Other:
BON HOMME COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,400
Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container: $500
Cemetery and Interment: Opening and closing $175; lot $150
Transportation/Mileage: $5.00 hours maximum @ $15.91 per hour
Merchandise:
Other:

BROOKINGS COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $3,000 for a Funeral Service
Traditional Service: $3,000
Cremation Service: $3,000
Outside Container: N/A
Cemetery and Interment: N/A
Transportation: N/A
Merchandise: N/A
Other: N/A

BROWN COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,800.00
Traditional Service: $1,800.00
Cremation Service: $1,800.00
Outside Container: $500.00
Cemetery and Interment: $500.00
Transportation/ Mileage: - 0 -
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: N/A
BRULE COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
Traditional Service: $2,956.00
Cremation Service: $2,499.00
Outside Container: If cemetery requires it, at actual cost.
Cemetery and Interment: Lot at actual cost by invoice and opening and closing of grave at actual cost.
Transportation/ Mileage: .41 cents per mile
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: $1.00 per mile to haul bodies to crematorium or autopsy

BUFFALO COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,000.00
Traditional Service: - 0 -
Cremation Service: - 0 -
Outside Container: - 0 -
Cemetery and Interment: - 0 -
Transportation/ Mileage: - 0 -
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: - 0 -

BUTTE COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
Traditional Service: $1,000.00
Cremation Service: $700.00
Outside Container: - 0 -
Cemetery and Interment: - 0 -
Transportation/ Mileage: - 0 -
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: - 0 -
CAMPBELL COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,500.00
Traditional Service: - 0 -
Cremation Service: - 0 -
Outside Container: - 0 -
Cemetery and Interment: - 0 -
Transportation/Mileage: - 0 -
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: - 0 -

CHARLES MIX COUNTY
(NO REPLY FOR 2018)
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
Adult: $2,000 includes grave opening and closure
Child: $1,000 includes grave opening and closure
Traditional Service: - 0 -
Cremation Service: - 0 -
Outside Container: - 0 -
Cemetery and Interment: - 0 -
Transportation/Mileage: Pay at funeral home rate
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: - 0 -

CLARK COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
Traditional Service: $3,000.00
Cremation Service: $2,850.00 cremation with traditional visitation and funeral
$2,150.00 cremation with memorial service only
Outside Container: - 0 -
Cemetery and Interment: - 0 -
Transportation/Mileage: - 0 -
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: - 0 -
CLAVER COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,900.00 flat fee
Traditional Service: 
Cremation Service: 
Outside Container: - 0 -
Cemetery and Interment: - 0 -
Transportation/ Mileage: - 0 -
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: - 0 -

CODINGTON COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
Traditional Service: $3,952.00
Cremation Service: $2,575.00
Outside Container: Included in the cost of service
Cemetery and Interment: $565.00
Transportation/ Mileage: Included in the cost of service
Merchandise: Included in the cost of service
Other: Included in the cost of service

CORSON COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,100.00 flat fee
Traditional Service: 
Cremation Service: 
Outside Container: - 0 -
Cemetery and Interment: - 0 -
Transportation/ Mileage: - 0 -
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: - 0 -
CUSTER COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,000 maximum for funeral and burial/cremation costs

Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container: - 0 -
Cemetery and Interment: - 0 -
Transportation/ Mileage: - 0 -
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: - 0 -

DAVISON COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,500.00 flat fee for traditional burial or cremation

Traditional Service: $2,500.00 flat fee
Cremation Service: $2,500.00 flat fee
Outside Container: - 0 -
Cemetery and Interment: - 0 -
Transportation/ Mileage: - 0 -
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: - 0 -

DAY COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:

Traditional Service: $3,000.00
Cremation Service: $2,000.00 including urn and services / $1,500 without services
Outside Container: Invoice cost
Cemetery and Interment: - 0 -
Transportation/ Mileage: $400.00
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: Opening and closing of grave/burial lot $550. Other services paid to other providers when death occurs out of area and other funeral homes have to do removal and prep services $800.00
DEUEL COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,350 for adult or child

Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container: All burials include vault
Cemetery and Interment: $250 grave digging
Transportation/Mileage: Mileage .37 cents per mile
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: - 0 -

DEWEY COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: Not to exceed $2,000.00

Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,500 for service, outside container and casket (less benefits i.e.: Veterans, Social Security, etc.)

Traditional Service:
Cremation Service: $1,500.00 for cremation in lieu of burial plus mileage
Outside Container: Included
Cemetery and Interment: Cemetery space and grave digging actual cost
Transportation/Mileage: Established rate for mileage, outside of county
Merchandise:
Other: Marker, actual cost not to exceed $200. Deceased indigent must have been a legal resident of Douglas County. Rates apply to resident indigent buried in Douglas or adjoining counties.
**EDMUNDS COUNTY**

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:

- **Traditional Service:** $2,000.00
- **Cremation Service:** $1,200.00
- **Outside Container:** included in above
- **Cemetery and Interment:** included in above
- **Transportation/Mileage:** included in above
- **Merchandise:** included in above
- **Other:** none

**FALL RIVER COUNTY**

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,900.00 total cost

- **Traditional Service:**
- **Cremation Service:**
- **Outside Container:**
- **Cemetery and Interment:**
- **Transportation/Mileage:**
- **Merchandise:**
- **Other:**

**FAULK COUNTY**

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: Adult and children with full service $1,200.00. Infant to 3 years old with full service $750.00. Baby still born to 2 months with full service $225.00

- **Traditional Service:**
- **Cremation Service:**
- **Outside Container:**
- **Cemetery and Interment:**
- **Transportation/Mileage:**
- **Merchandise:**
- **Other:** These fees do not include grave liner nor opening and closing the grave.
GRANT COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
Traditional Service:  $3,100.00
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:  Cost of opening and closing grave
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

GREGORY COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:  $2,250.00
Traditional Service:  $2,250.00
Cremation Service:  up to $2,250.00
Outside Container:  N/A
Cemetery and Interment:  N/A
Transportation/ Mileage:  state mileage rate of .42 cents per mile
Merchandise:  N/A
Other:  N/A

HAAKON COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:  $1,880.00
Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:  Actual cost
Cemetery and Interment:  May be buried at no cost in portion of cemetery at Philip that is set aside for indigent burials.
Transportation/ Mileage:  .75 cents per mile within 100 miles of Philip one-way
Merchandise:
Other:
HAMLIN COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
   Adult: $1,500 complete burial or cremation
   Child: $850 complete burial or cremation for child (up to age 5)

Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

HAND COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,000.00 plus $250.00 maximum for burial fees

Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other: $150 for storage, and coroner fee is set at $58 as designated in SDCL 7-14-1.

HANSON COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:

Traditional Service: Max payment of $2,500.00
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:
HARDING COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $3,000

Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

HUGHES COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,000

Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage: No
Merchandise: No
Other: Hughes County pays a flat $2,000 for a burial to be used by the funeral home as needed. But we don’t pay mileage.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,750.00 per county burial or cremation service

Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:
HYDE COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,500.00 maximum fee
Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

JACKSON COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,300.00 maximum per burial
Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

JERAULD COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,600.00 for complete burial and vault
Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage: $0.75 per mile after 50 miles not to exceed 200 miles
Merchandise:
Other: Grave digging and oversize extra
JONES COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,500.00
Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

KINGSBURY COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,000
Traditional Service: N/A
Cremation Service: N/A
Outside Container: N/A
Cemetery and Interment: N/A
Transportation/ Mileage: N/A
Merchandise: N/A
Other: N/A

LAKE COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,650.00
Traditional Service: $2,250 + $400 max for open & close grave/liner/mileage
Cremation Service: $1,500 + $400 max for open & close grave/liner/mileage
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise: None
Other: None
LAWRENCE COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:

Traditional Service: $2,210 standard funeral including casket, burial (including vault); $1,760 standard funeral including casket, burial and no vault needed.

Cremation Service: $1,170 cremation/funeral

Outside Container:


Transportation/Mileage: Reimbursed at State mileage rates

Merchandise:

Other: Before any reimbursement is made, the following criteria and guidelines must be met:

1) The county must receive notification of the death as soon as possible. The funeral director may do this by telephone to the Commissioners Assistant or the Chairperson of the Lawrence County Commissioners.

2) All paperwork, including the application for assistance, must be completed by the nearest relative/representative or the funeral director. They county will then make a final determination of indigency or eligibility.

3) The county shall not supplement any of these costs of the funeral service or be obligated for any more than set out above. When the decedent has a death benefit paid to a survivor, the charges to the county shall be adjusted by that amount. It is the survivor’s responsibility to reimburse the funeral home for that amount.

4) In determining eligibility for assistance, the ability of the surviving family members to pay the burial costs may be the determinant for county assistance rather than the indigency of the deceased.

5) Each year a letter will be sent by the Commissioners Assistant notifying each funeral home in Lawrence County that such rates will be up for review.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: At cost, up to $2,500

Traditional Service: At cost, up to $2,500

Cremation Service: At cost, up to $2,500

Outside Container: must be included in cost

Cemetery and Interment: must be included in cost or at family’s expense

Transportation/Mileage: must be included in cost

Merchandise: at family’s expense

Other: N/A
LYMAN COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,475.00 plus lot cost
Traditional Service: $2,000 plus actual opening & closing cost (not to exceed $475) and lot cost
Cremation Service: $2,000 plus actual opening & closing cost and lot cost (not to exceed $375) local mileage included
Outside Container: N/A
Cemetery and Interment: actual lot cost
Transportation/ Mileage: included
Merchandise: N/A
Other: N/A

MARSHALL COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,750 plus grave liner and opening and closing
Traditional Service: $2,750
Cremation Service: $2,000
Outside Container: invoice amount
Cemetery and Interment: invoice amount
Transportation/ Mileage: none
Merchandise: none
Other: none

McCOOK COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,000 flat rate
Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:
McPHERSON COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
Traditional Service:  Adult $1,800 (flat fee) and Child $1,000 (flat fee)
Cremation Service:  $900.00 (flat fee)
Outside Container:  
Cemetery and Interment:  
Transportation/ Mileage:  
Merchandise: 
Other: 

MEADE COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,000 (traditional) and $975 (cremation)
Traditional Service:  $1,500 + $500 (vault) = $2,000.00
Cremation Service:  $975.00
Outside Container:  N/A 
Cemetery and Interment:  N/A 
Transportation/ Mileage:  N/A 
Merchandise:  N/A 
Other:  None 

MELLETTE COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,000
Traditional Service:  $1,000
Cremation Service:  $1,000
Outside Container:  
Cemetery and Interment:  
Transportation/ Mileage:  
Merchandise: 
Other:  

MINER COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,250.00 maximum

Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

MINNEHAHA COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:

Traditional Service: $3,000
Cremation Service: $2,000
Outside Container: included in allowance above
Cemetery and Interment: MC does not pay these as MC owns a County cemetery and individuals can be placed there in lieu of a personal plot.
Transportation/ Mileage: included in allowance above for transportation within MC. MC does not pay for transportation outside MC.
Merchandise: included in allowance above
Other: $750 for child (under 5 feet) covers both cremation and traditional service.

MOODY COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:

Traditional Service: $2,850 maximum. The County burial provides for full service which includes: professional services/facilities and equipment, embalming and other preparation, funeral service and visitation, funeral coach and transfer to funeral home, casket (cloth) and grave liner.
Cremation Service: $1,800 maximum ($1,500 cremation process & $300 for memorial service). Direct cremation includes: professional services/facilities and equipment, funeral coach, transfer to funeral home and to cemetery.
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment: cemetery lot and grave opening/closing at cost
Transportation/ Mileage: $1.75 per mile (loaded) beyond 25 miles
Merchandise: None
Other: None
OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY  *(formerly Shannon County)*

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:  $1,000.00 total cost
Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

PENNINGTON COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:  varies – see below
Traditional Service:  $1,700.00
Cremation Service:  $1,910.00
Outside Container:  $400.00
Cemetery and Interment:  varies between cemeteries and traditional vs. cremation
Transportation/ Mileage:  excess of 25 miles round trip from funeral home at a rate of $1.00 per mile
Merchandise:  N/A
Other:  N/A

PERKINS COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:  $1,525.00
Traditional Service:  $1,525.00
Cremation Service:  $1,525.00
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:
POTTER COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
Traditional Service: $1,250.00
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

ROBERTS COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
Traditional Service: $3,600 for services, casket and grave box paid to the funeral home
Cremation Service: If a cremation, we pay much less.
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment: $500 for opening and closing of grave directly to grave digger
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

SANBORN COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
Traditional Service: $2,400.00
Cremation Service: $2,400.00
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage: .75 cents per mile within state
Merchandise:
Other:

SHANNON COUNTY  (see Oglala Lakota County)
SPINK COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
Traditional Service: $1,750.00
Cremation Service: $1,750.00
Outside Container: $700.00
Cemetery and Interment: Included in the $1,750.00
Transportation/ Mileage: .42 cents per mile
Merchandise:
Other:

STANLEY COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,000 until December 31, 2018 and then increase to $2,000 in 2019
Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other: When the County has a request, we contact the funeral home and they take care of everything within the specified dollar amount.

SULLY COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
Traditional Service: $3,000.00
Cremation Service: $2,000.00
Outside Container: - 0 -
Cemetery and Interment: - 0 -
Transportation/ Mileage: - 0 -
Merchandise: - 0 -
Other: N/A
TODD COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,750.00
Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

TRIPP COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,750.00
Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

TURNER COUNTY
Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials:
Traditional Service: Adult Burial $2,500.00, Child Burial 3-5 years of age $1,400.00, 2 years of age & under $900.00
Cremation Service: $1,500
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment: $300.00 maximum for opening & closing fees
Transportation/ Mileage: mileage for transportation of deceased to be reimbursed at the state rate if traveling outside the county & to reimburse funeral directors outside the county the county rate in which the burial takes place but not to exceed Turner County’s burial fees.
Merchandise:
Other: Coroner fees $100.00
UNION COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,000.00 flat fee

Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container:
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage: $2.00 per mile
Merchandise:
Other: sometimes we pay $75.00 for a disaster bag for transport

WALWORTH COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,500 maximum dollar amount for merchandise & services rendered for county burial

Traditional Service:
Cremation Service:
Outside Container: at cost when required and applicable invoice is provided
Cemetery and Interment:
Transportation/ Mileage:
Merchandise:
Other:

YANKTON COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $1,250 flat fee

Traditional Service: No
Cremation Service: No
Outside Container: No
Cemetery and Interment: No
Transportation/ Mileage: No
Merchandise: No
Other: N/A
ZIEBACH COUNTY

Maximum dollar amount for indigent burials: $2,000.00
Traditional Service: $1,600.00
Cremation Service: $1,600.00
Outside Container: No
Cemetery and Interment: No
Transportation/Mileage: Mileage allowed, total not to exceed $2,000 maximum amount.
Merchandise: No
Other: N/A

This information was compiled by the South Dakota Funeral Directors Association.

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