

Request for the Exhumation of a Cinerary Urn

1. Applicant

Family Name		First Name	
Home address (No., Street, P.O. Box, Municipality, Province, Country, Postal Code)			
Phone number - Home	Phone number - Work	Phone number - Cellular	E-mail
Relationship with the deceased			

2. Exhumation required

Cemetery where exhumation will take place			
Name of the deceased to be exhumed		First Name	
Place and date of death		Place and date of burial	
	Year / Month / Day		Year / Month / Day
Reason for transfer _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> The place where the said deceased ashes. Are currently buried clearly identified. Indicate the lot or niche number: _____.			

3. Transfer requested

<input type="checkbox"/> in the same cemetery. Indicate lot or niche number: _____. <input type="checkbox"/> to another cemetery. Indicate the name of the cemetery: _____ and the lot or niche number _____. <input type="checkbox"/> in a private columbarium. Indicate the name of the columbarium: _____ and the niche number _____. <input type="checkbox"/> other arrangement of the ashes. Specify: _____.
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4. Declaration

<input type="checkbox"/> I am the testamental executor of the above named deceased. If not, the testamental executor must give permission by signing below: <div style="text-align: right;">_____ Signature of testamental executor</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> I am the legatee of the lot in which the decedent lies. If not, the legatee must give permission by signing below: <div style="text-align: right;">_____ Signature of the legatee</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> No member of the decence family or of the estate objects to this exhumation. I, the undersigned applicant, declare that I meet the conditions listed above, I certify that the ashes will be buried as indicated and I have full authority to make this request on _____. The costs of exhumation and burial are to be paid by the applicant <div style="text-align: right;">_____ Signature of applicant</div>

Cemetery Official	_____ Signature of person in charge
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Permission of the Ecclesiastical Authority Authorization granted according to the said request and for ecclesiastical purposes.	
Done and signed in, Gatineau this _____. (SEAL)	_____ Signature of the Ordinary of Gatineau

- Original to the applicant
- Copy to Chancery



REQUEST FOR EXHUMATION OF A CINERARY URN

Procedure to follow

1. Ecclesiastical Authorization

The requesting party must first complete the appropriate request form and return it to the Diocesan Chancery to obtain the required ecclesiastical authorization. The fees for each request is fifty dollars (\$50.00) and payment must accompany the form. If there is more than one cinerary urn to be exhumed, a separate form must be completed for each exhumation.

In certain circumstances, the requesting party may be required to prove that no one (deceased family member, estate, executor, legatee or lot owner) objects to the requested exhumation.

For all other details related to this request and the required ecclesiastical authorization, please contact the Chancery of the Diocese of Gatineau:

180 Mont-Bleu Boulevard
Gatineau, Québec J8Z 3J5
Phone: 819-771-8391
Fax: 819-778-8969

2. Civil Authorization for exhumation of a cinerary urn

No civil authorization is required for the exhumation of a cinerary urn. A civil authorization is required only for the exhumation of a body.

3. Exhumation

With the ecclesiastical and civil authorizations (as the case may be), the requesting party contacts the person in charge of the cemetery where the exhumation will take place, in order to establish the procedures.

For information on the procedure and the fees charged, contact the office of the cemetery administrator or the corporation of the cemetery where the deceased is buried.

September 2021

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Reasons for denying a request

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of the Diocese of Gatineau, represented by his Chancellor, **always grants permission to exhume a cinerary urn** remains provided that a request is justified, that the applicant proves his or her right and that third parties who also have rights do not object.

However, **permission to exhume may be denied**, even if the request appears justified:

- a) When the requesting party does not justify his or her right to exhume.
- b) When the rightful claimants object to the exhumation without the requesting party proving that his or her right outweighs that of the objectors: for example, a requesting party initially waived his or her right by agreeing to have a person buried in a lot that is not his or her own.
- c) When an exhumation request is threatened with civil action by the objectors to the exhumation for breach of rights or contract: for example, one of the objectors is the rightful grantee of the lot in the church cemetery in which a deceased person is buried; the grant contract and cemetery regulations, approved and authorized by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Gatineau, give him the exclusive right to bury in that lot. He then has the right to control the exhumations in his plot.
- d) When the deceased has specifically requested a cemetery for his burial (respect for last wishes).
- e) When family members initially agree that a deceased person should be buried in a particular location, but dissent arises after burial.
- f) When a place of burial has been determined by law¹ because the decedent did not specifically indicate a cemetery for burial and those responsible for the burial did not agree, and still do not agree at the time of the exhumation request.

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¹ Canon law resolves the issue by stipulating where the deceased is to be buried, canon 1180 - § 1: *"If the parish has its own cemetery, the faithful deceased are to be buried there, unless another cemetery has been legitimately chosen by the deceased himself or by those whose duty it is to care for his burial."*