



**DRAFT ORDINANCE PROVIDING FREE CASKETS AND BURIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIGENT PERSONS WITHIN THE CITY OF TUGUEGARAO AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Sponsors: Hon. Myrna G. Te  
Hon. Mark Angelo B. Dayag  
Hon. Mariel Ayna T. Calimag  
Hon. Anthony C. Tuddao  
Hon. Jackson G. Carodan  
Hon. Restituto C. Ramirez  
Hon. Cerene Pearl T. Quilang

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the State to promote social justice and welfare by providing assistance to indigent citizens, especially in times of bereavement;

**WHEREAS**, the City Government of Tuguegarao acknowledges that funeral and burial expenses often impose severe financial hardship upon indigent families;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to institutionalize a program ensuring a decent burial for every indigent resident through the provision of free caskets and burial assistance;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it **ORDAINED** as it is hereby **ORDAINED** by the 10<sup>th</sup> City Council of Tuguegarao City, in session duly assembled, that:

**SECTION 1. TITLE.** This Ordinance shall be known as the “Free Casket and Burial Assistance to Indigent Persons Ordinance of Tuguegarao City.”

**SECTION 2. COVERAGE.** This Ordinance shall apply to indigent residents of Tuguegarao City as certified by the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO).

**SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS.**

- a. Indigent Person – A resident or family certified by the CSWDO as financially incapable of meeting basic living needs based on the DSWD poverty criteria.
- b. Casket – A coffin or container intended for burial purposes.
- c. Burial Assistance – Financial and/or in-kind support to cover funeral and burial expenses.
- d. Service Provider – An accredited funeral parlor or mortuary service operating within Tuguegarao City.

**SECTION 4. BENEFITS.** Each qualified indigent person/family shall be entitled to:

- 4.1 One (1) free standard casket and
- 4.2 Burial Assistance amounting to Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P 12, 500.00), inclusive of basic funeral and burial services (transport of remains, embalming, and burial coordination), provided by an accredited service provider.

**SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTING OFFICE.** The City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) shall be the lead implementing agency and shall:

- a. Evaluate and verify all applications for assistance;
- b. Maintain a master list of qualified beneficiaries;
- c. Canvass accredited funeral parlors for service quotations;
- d. Recommend the lowest responsive bidder to the City Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for approval; and
- e. Monitor service delivery and beneficiary satisfaction.

**SECTION 6. ACCREDITATION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS.** The CSWDO in coordination with the BAC and the City Legal Office shall accredit funeral parlors operating within Tuguegarao City that:

- 6.1 Possess a valid business permit and sanitary clearances;
- 6.2 Comply with DTI and DOH standards for funeral services;
- 6.3 Offer standard-quality caskets and dignified funeral arrangements.

Accreditation shall be renewed annually, and or accredited providers shall be eligible for canvassing and bidding.

**SECTION 7. FUNDING.** Funds for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be appropriated annually under the City Social Welfare and Development Office budget or the City's Social Services Fund. Supplementary funding may be sourced from donations, grants or other lawful means.

**SECTION 8. PENALTY CLAUSE.** Any person who falsifies documents, misrepresents facts, or engages in fraudulent activity to avail of the program shall be permanently disqualified from receiving city welfare benefits and may be prosecuted under applicable laws.

**SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall continue to be in force and effect.

**SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY.** This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its posting in conspicuous places in the city.