



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

Town Manager's Office
51 Depot Square, Suite 3
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
802-748-3926
www.stjvt.com

Town Clerk 802-748-4331
Dispatch 802-748-2314
Police 802-748-2314
Fire 802-748-8925
Public Works 802-748-4408
Assessor Office 802-748-4272

Town of St. Johnsbury Home Burial FAQ

It is legal in Vermont to bury immediate family members on home property. St. Johnsbury wishes to protect the health of its citizens and protect human remains located on private lands. This document complies with State minimum setbacks, practices, and requirements for at home *green* burials.

1. The burial boundaries (the outer edges of the burial area) must be located as follows for compliance with **18 V.S.A. § 5319(b)(2)**:
 - **From drilled bedrock wells** or drilled wells in a confined aquifer (part of an exempt or permitted potable water supply or transient noncommunity public water system): **Not less than 200 feet up gradient** (meaning uphill or in the direction groundwater flows toward the well).

 - **From any other groundwater source** (e.g., springs, dug wells, or other potable supplies that are exempt or permitted): **Not less than 500 feet up gradient.**

 - **From any groundwater source** (cross or down gradient): **Not less than 150 feet cross or down gradient.**

 - **From source protection areas:**
 - Outside **Zone 1 or 2** of the source protection area for an existing or permitted **public community water system.**
 - Outside the source protection area for an existing or permitted **nontransient, noncommunity public water system.**

- **From river corridors:** Outside any river corridor as defined and delineated by the Agency of Natural Resources (under 10 V.S.A. § 1422).

 - **From flood hazard areas:** Outside any flood hazard area as defined and delineated by FEMA/National Flood Insurance Program (under 10 V.S.A. § 752).
2. A map of the burial site must be created and recorded in the St. Johnsbury land records.
 3. State laws regarding handling, storage, and burial of human remains must be followed. **(18 V.S.A. § 5201)**
 4. All pertinent paperwork, including a Private Family Burial Ground form, must be filed with the Town Clerks Office.
 5. The care and maintenance of the burial site is the responsibility of the family and not the responsibility of the Town of St. Johnsbury.