 NORWICH City Council	Transfer Of Exclusive Rights To Burial Form 3 – Deceased did not leave a Will or Estate does not require Letters of Administration (Statutory Declaration required)	Ref No.	
		Date	

Guidance Notes

The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 (“LACO”) gives Norwich City Council wide powers for the management of a cemetery.

The Council has the right to grant a person an “Exclusive Right of Burial” (“ERB”), which includes the following rights:

- a. To be buried in a specific grave plot.
- b. To apply for permission to erect a memorial on the grave plot.
- c. To decide additional persons who can be interred in that grave plot.

Under the LACO, the Council must keep a register of burials. This includes keeping plans of all graves, vaults, and graves spaces subject to burial rights. The Council’s Statutory Registers contain the details of all registered grave owners.

It is important the grave owners keep safe their Deed of Grant as this is a legal document containing the grave details. The Council issues this document when the grave is first purchased. The owner should also keep the Council updated with their contact details.

When the original registered owner dies, the person who has the final say over the funeral arrangements is the executor (if there is a Will) or the administrator (if there isn’t a Will).

When the current owner is buried, the ERB can be transferred in accordance with a Will or if the owner died intestate (without a Will), then in accordance with the rules of intestacy. Possession of the Deed does not in itself signify ownership of the grave.

If the owner’s family members wish to arrange a further burial to take place in the grave, or for an additional inscription to be placed on the memorial, then the ERB needs to be transferred to another individual. This guidance and the forms attached will assist the council with your request to transfer ownership of the ERB.


The Council’s Register of grave ownership will be updated following the transfer of ownership.

There is a fee payable for the transfer of grave ownership. Please enquire at time of transfer for current fees.

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Terms and definitions in this guidance:

Administrator	Where there is no Will, the person appointed to deal with the deceased's estate.
Assignee	The nominated person who the Assignor wishes to transfer their ERB to.
Assignor	Current registered living owner of the ERB that wishes to transfer their ERB to another person.
Beneficiary	The person who is entitled to receive the whole, or part, of the estate.
Death Certificate	Official document certifying the death of a person.
ERB	Exclusive Rights of Burial.
Estate	Everything a person owns.
Executor	The person appointed, in the Will, to deal with the estate.
Grant of Probate	Official document, supplied by the Probate Registry, confirming the executors appointed in the Will has authority to act and it validates the Will.
Letters of Administration	Official document, supplied by the Probate Registry, confirming the person appointed to distribute the deceased's estate. This document is required if there is no Will, or there are no executors willing to act.
Intestate	Where a person dies without leaving a Will.
Probate	<p>The legal process of administering a deceased's estate. This involves organising their money, assets and possessions and distributing them, after paying any taxes and debts.</p> <p>If the deceased has left a Will, they will appoint an executor to do this and the estate will be distributed in accordance with the Will.</p> <p>If the deceased died intestate (without leaving a Will), then someone can apply for this role, and they will be called an administrator and distribute the estate in accordance with the Rules of intestacy.</p>
Statutory Declaration	A Statutory Declaration is a typed sworn statement explaining the registered owner of a grave/plot is deceased and names who is entitled to the Exclusive Rights of Burial and why. This statement must give names of all those persons entitled to the Rights, whether they wish to be owners or not. This has to be signed in the presence of a solicitor, commissioner of oaths or notary public.
Will	Legal document setting out who is appointed to distribute the estate (called an executor) and who is entitled to benefit from the estate (called a beneficiary).

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Form 3 Transfer of ERB (No Will and No Letters of Administration)

Statutory Declaration required

Form 3 covers situations where the deceased is intestate and their estate is distributed in accordance with the rules of intestacy, but value of the estate does not require Letters of Administration. In this case, a statutory declaration will be required.

Statutory Declaration

A Statutory Declaration is a typed sworn statement explaining the registered owner of a grave/plot is deceased and names who is entitled to the Exclusive Rights of Burial and why. This statement must give names of all those persons entitled to the Rights, whether they wish to be owners or not.

Guidance for completing Form 3:

Box 1 – Fill in the name of the deceased and details of the Deed of Grant.

Box 2 – Fill in the name of the proposed grant holder (the person who will now be the new owner of the ERB). You should briefly describe why the proposed grant holder is legally entitled to inherit the ERB.

Boxes 3 – 4 – Fill in the details of the Applicants.


Box 5 – the Applicants should sign in this box.

What documents you need to include with Form 3:

- ☐ **Statutory Declaration**
- ☐ **Death Certificate of the registered owner**
- ☐ **Form 4 - Renunciation Form¹ (only required, if there is more than one entitled beneficiary)**

¹ If there is more than one beneficiary and the other beneficiaries wish to renounce their rights, then the Renunciation Form (Form 4) will need to be completed and submitted alongside Form 3.

We unable to provide advice on statutory declarations or intervene in family disputes.


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1. Deceased – Owner of the Exclusive Rights to Burial (ERB)			
Full Name			
Cemetery			
Section & Plot Number		Grant Number	
Date of Death			

2. Name of proposed grant holder			
Full Name			
Address			
Telephone Number		Email:	
Relationship to deceased			
Please explain how the proposed grant holder is legally entitled to the ERB.			

3. Applicant Details (1)			
Full Name			
Address			
Telephone Number		Email:	
Relationship to deceased			

4. Applicant Details (2)			
Full Name			
Address			
Telephone Number		Email:	
Relationship to deceased			

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5. Applications & Certificates

I/We, the named applicants, confirm and agree I am/we are:

- Authorised to act on the behalf of the deceased ERB owner and am legally entitled to administer their estate.
- Certify that the above-named proposed grant holder is entitled to the exclusive right of burial.
- Will indemnify Norwich City Council against all claims, proceedings, and costs it may incur in the event of there being someone other than the beneficiary who is entitled to the exclusive right of burial


Signed by applicant(s):

Applicant 1:	Applicant 2:
Date:	Date:

For Office Use

					Rejected Date	Document Returned Date
Grant Received	Yes		No			
Letter Of Administration	Yes		No			

					Charges	Date
ERB Granted	Yes		No			
Documents Returned	Yes		No			
New Grant Issued	Yes		No			

 NORWICH City Council	Transfer Of Exclusive Rights To Burial (ERB) Form 4 - Renunciation	Ref No.	
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Where the registered owner of the Exclusive Right of Burial (“ERB”) has died, the ERB should be transferred to one person that is entitled to inherit it (in accordance with a Will or Rules of Intestacy). This will give the new owner of the ERB the right to allow another burial to take place in the grave plot, make amendments to an existing memorial or place a new memorial on the plot.

If there is more than one person entitled to claim ownership of the deceased owner’s grave, then each person would need to give their consent for further burials. This can often lead to delays in arranging burials or family disputes and it often better for one member of the family to become the registered grave owner by transferring the grave ownership. To do this all those persons with a claim to ownership will need to renounce their entitlement in favour of one person.

This form should be completed when there is more than one eligible person, and the other eligible people will need to renounce their entitlement in favour of one person.

Form 4 - Transfer of ERB by Form of Renunciation (NO WILL)
<p><u>Guidance for completing Form 4:</u></p> <p>Box 1 – Fill in the name of the deceased and details of the Deed of Grant.</p> <p>Boxes 2 – 5 –Fill in the details of the other people who has a claim to ownership of the grave rights and wish to renounce their rights. They must sign and date.</p> <p>Box 6– Fill in the Deed of Grant details here.</p> <p>Box 7 - Fill in the name of the proposed Grant Holder’s details (the person who will be the new owner of the ERB).</p> <p>Box 8 – Please sign this form in front of a witness and their details must be completed in this box.</p>

 NORWICH City Council	Transfer Of Exclusive Rights To Burial (ERB) Form 4 - Renunciation	Ref No.	
		Date	

1. Deceased – Owner of the Exclusive Rights to Burial (ERB)			
Full Name			
Cemetery			
Section & Plot Number		Grant Number	
Date of Death			

2. Person who has a claim to ownership of the grave rights – Renounce The Right to the ERB	
Full Name	
Address	
Signature	
Date	

3. Person who has a claim to ownership of the grave rights – Renounce The Right to the ERB	
Full Name	
Address	
Signature	
Date	

4. Person who has a claim to ownership of the grave rights – Renounce The Right to the ERB	
Full Name	
Address	
Signature	
Date	

5. Person who has a claim to ownership of the grave rights – Renounce The Right to the ERB	
Full Name	
Address	
Signature	
Date	

 NORWICH City Council	Transfer Of Exclusive Rights To Burial (ERB) Form 4 - Renunciation			Ref No.	
				Date	

6. Renunciation

I /We, hereby renounce all my / our interest and title in the Rights of Burial described as in the register as:

Earlham Rosary Cemetery

Grant Number		Section		Plot	
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And desire that the said Rights of Burial shall be vested in:

7. Proposed Grant Holder

Full Name	
Address	

8. Witness

Full Name			
Address			
Telephone Number		Email:	
Signature			

The completed form should be sent to

Norwich City Council, Bereavement Services, St Peters Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1NH

You should include with this form

- Form 3 (Statutory Declaration).

For Office Use

					Charges	Date
ERB Granted	Yes		No			
Documents Returned	Yes		No			
New Grant Issued	Yes		No			