

**PROBATE COURT OF GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO**  
**JUDGE TIMOTHY J. GRENDALL**

ESTATE OF \_\_\_\_\_, DECEASED  
CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF OTHER FUNERAL EXPENSES**  
**[R.C. 2113.031(A)(2)(b)]**

\_\_\_\_\_, the Applicant, states that, in addition to the bill of the funeral director, the applicant paid additional funeral expenses, which are described below:

Applicant requests that the Court approve those funeral expenses as permitted by R.C. 2113.031(A)(2)(b).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

Judgment Entry  Magistrate's Order

The Court finds that this application satisfies all requirements of R.C. 2113.031(A)(2)(b) and therefore approves those funeral expenses described above in this Application.

The Court denies this application

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge / Magistrate

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSENT TO APPROVAL**

The undersigned consent to the Court's approval of those funeral expenses that are described above.

Signature

Type Name

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## MEMORANDUM

R.C. 2113.031(A)(2) allows the cost of reasonable funeral and burial expenses to be included with the bill of the funeral director to determine whether the probate estate qualifies for the filing of a summary release from administration. The statute does not define the meaning of the words “funeral expense” or “burial expenses.”

However, there are several cases that have dealt with the issue.

1. Cost of Monument and Flowers. In the case titled *Smith v. Bauknecht*, 2011 WL 3568346 (6<sup>th</sup> App. Dist, Lucas Cty) the court allowed the cost of both a monument and flowers as a property funeral or burial expense. The court stated,  
“As aptly stated years ago in *Caswell v. Harry Miller Excavating Co.* (1969), 20 Ohio Misc. 46, “[W]hile the furnishing of flowers for a funeral and the purchase of a tombstone or marker are not absolute necessities, a reasonable expenditure for such items \* \* \* is appropriate and in harmony with the feelings and sentiments of an enlightened humanity and a reasonable sum expended therefore are to be considered necessary funeral expenses.”
2. Cost of Luncheon. In the case titled *In re Estate of Kathy M. Campbell*, 989 N.E. 2d 1090 (6<sup>th</sup> App. Dist, Wood Cty)(2013), the Court stated  
“Applying these principles to the case sub judice, we agree with appellant that a funeral luncheon qualifies as a “funeral expense” under R.C. 2117.25(A)(2). We reach this conclusion for three reasons.”

The court continued to set forth three reasons for that conclusion