



YAZOO CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Courtesy Funeral Escort Policy
Policies and Procedures

Policy:

The Yazoo City Police Department will provide limited vehicular escort services to the community based on the availability of adequate resources, an approved request, or in emergency situations. Escort services will only be approved if they can be provided in a manner that will ensure the safety of the public and officers and will allow for an orderly and expeditious flow of traffic.

Purpose and Scope

This policy establishes consistent standards, procedures and practices when providing Courtesy Escort Services to Mortuary Service Companies while performing courtesy services to these companies during a Funeral Procession within the City Limits of Yazoo City MS.

Funeral Procession

Shall mean a group of five (5) or more vehicles, following a hearse traveling in line from a funeral service whether that funeral service is held at a place of worship or other location, to a transportation facility, cemetery, or crematory.

Indemnity

1. The requesting Escort Entity or his or her employee's shall assume all responsibility for his or her activity and operation, shall bear all losses and damages directly or indirectly resulting to him or her, any subcontractor, the City or City employees that are the result of the performance or character of the operation, unforeseen difficulties, accidents, occurrences or other causes not predicated on active negligence of the City.
2. injury, and liability of every kind, nature and description, including punitive damages, directly or indirectly arising from the escorting of a funeral procession.
3. All Yazoo City law enforcement officers who is directing or escorting a funeral procession, shall enjoy the same immunities from liability as the officer possesses while in the performance of their official duties.



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Rules and Requirements

1. The requesting Entity shall give a 48 hours' notice in order to anticipate and safely prepare for the requested services, by completing a Funeral Escort request form.
2. Official insignia" shall mean an official symbol, identifying mark, banner, flag or emblem approved by the Chief of Police or his or her designee
3. All vehicles in the funeral procession must be as closely-spaced as safely possible, and must have headlights, flashers and taillights activated. Vehicles in a funeral procession must exercise due caution and yield the right-of-way to emergency vehicles or when directed by a police officer.
4. The Procession Participants are not to leave their place in the procession line unless there is an emergency
5. The Funeral Procession will not exceed 30 mph, unless the speed limit is posted lower
6. One marked lead vehicle at the front of the escort. There may be up to 2 additional marked vehicles to control street intersections during the procession, if available.
7. Additional City Resources may be utilized by the Yazoo City Police Department to safely assist with Traffic Control, if available
8. Mortuary Companies will be responsible for providing safety guidelines for the processional
9. Please keep in mind that in the event of an ongoing emergency situation or other law enforcement event there may be a delay in the response time to begin the escort service.
10. There may be exceptions made for State and Dignitary Services



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11. All Funeral Escorts shall be conducted in the Daylight Hours.
12. In the event that there are multiple requests by multiple Entities, the Services will be provided on a first come, first serve basis.

Courtesy Escort Request and Approval Process

- a. Vehicle escort requests will be forwarded to the Chief of Police or his designee for approval. If resources are available, the Chief of Police or designee may make a preliminary recommendation for approval, the operations plan for an escort should include at least the following information:
 1. The date and time of the escort;
 2. The person and/or entity requesting the escort;
 3. If known, the approximate number of vehicles that will be part of the processional (not including police vehicles);
 4. The proposed route of the escort;
 5. Any unique or specific circumstances of which the submitting Entity is aware that could potentially affect the safety or orderly movement of the escort.
- b. If the Chief of Police or designee does not recommend approval of an escort request, the Entity will be provided with an alternate option.
- c. The Chief of Police or his designee will be the final approving authority on all courtesy escorts except those conducted under exigent circumstances. Officers requested to provide these types of escorts should obtain approval of a supervisor or Watch Commander before providing the escort if possible.
- d. In some cases, it may be necessary for the Yazoo City Police Department to hire overtime to safely escort a processional request at the cost of the City.



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Funeral Escort Request

City of Yazoo City

Police Department

Funeral Home Requesting Services: _____

Address: _____

Decedent: _____

Funeral Service Location: _____

Funeral Date: _____ **Day of the Week:** _____

Time of Service: _____ **Burial Location:** _____

Expected Number of Vehicles: _____

Requested Processional Route



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Funeral Processional Map

