



Policy for Burials and Human Remains

It is the policy of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center that it will not accept any human remains or associated funerary objects in accordance with A.R.S. 41-844 and A.R.S. 41-865, Rules revised November 20, 1991, and current Guidelines issued by the Arizona State Museum Burial Coordinator. The Center will not take any artifact donation that was taken from a human burial or that the donor had knowledge that it came from a human burial.

Any artifact left near or behind the Verde Valley Archaeology Center door that contains human bones will not be touched. Law enforcement officers will be notified to take possession of those bones and artifacts. The Center will then notify the burial coordinator at the Arizona State Museum (AMS), who in turn will notify the appropriate Arizona Tribes.

Archaeological Excavation Discoveries

Any excavations sponsored by, or in conjunction with, another firm or agency that encounters burials in the process will immediately stop and the ASM Burial Coordinator will be contacted within 24 hours. The Center will then agree to follow any procedure that the Coordinator and Affinal Tribe deem necessary to respect the remains. Whenever possible, human remains will be protected in place. The Coordinator or their designated agent will be consulted regarding whether the security of the burial location is adequate.

If the coordinator and Tribes determine that avoidance and protection of the human remains is not possible and that the human remains and their associated funerary objects should be removed in order to prevent damage or other harm to them, then the remains shall be excavated in accordance with the burial agreement and with the provisions and standards of the Arizona Antiquity Act and Implementing Rules, and of Guidelines current at the time of discovery.

Human remains and associated funerary objects excavated under the direction of the coordinator and burial agreement may be transported to a secure laboratory in the region for archaeological inventory and description. Human remains and associated funerary objects should be kept in close proximity to each other while undergoing inventory and description; they may not be taken out of the State of Arizona.

No destructive analysis of human remains shall be permitted except with written authorization of all claimant Tribes, with a copy of the authorizations on file with the Coordinator. Photographs of human remains shall not be taken under any circumstances. Photographs of burial locations can be taken as long as no human remains are visible in the photographs. Sketches of associated funerary objects are allowed for inventory and description purposes. The inventory and report of the human remains and associated funerary objects shall be submitted to the Coordinator and to the Tribes by the director of excavations identified in the burial agreement.

The director of excavations identified in the burial agreement shall ensure that all human remains and associated funerary objects removed during excavation and inventoried will be repatriated to the designated Tribe as determined by the Coordinator.