



# Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj

Established in 1932

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“Satyameva Jayate” - Truth Alone Prevails

## Celebrating 82 Years of Selfless Service

### **POLICY ON WEDDING & FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIGENT FAMILIES**

#### **PREAMBLE**

Over the last few decades, the number of people who are unemployed has steadily increased while the earning power of those who are employed has materially decreased. In these financially constrained times, more people are experiencing difficulty affording the cost of a traditional Hindu wedding or the expenses associated with a funeral. Consequently, the SAMAJ has decided to draft this policy so as to govern the process of providing assistance to community members who are unable to meet the cost of weddings and/or funerals.

#### **QUALIFYING CRITERIA**

Samaj officials will conduct a means test with all applicants for a wedding or funeral service. Only community members who meet the means test as determined by Samaj officials from time to time will qualify for wedding or funeral assistance. The means test will include investigating the willingness of extended family members to assist with the wedding or funeral arrangements.

#### **PROCEDURE FOR “SAMU” WEDDINGS**

The following procedure for samu weddings will be followed:

- The Samaj will support one wedding event per annum. Should the need arise for more than one event, this will be considered taking the merits of the case into account;
- Annually, the Samaj will pre-book a date it considers suitable taking into consideration the needs of all parties involved in arranging the function;

- The Samaj will invite members of the community to apply to have their wedding performed by the Samaj on the set date;
- Upon receipt of an application, the Samaj will conduct a means test. Such a test will include the willingness of the applicant's extended family to assist with the costs of the function.
- On the prescribed date, a maximum of three weddings can be performed i.e. a maximum of three couples can be married on the set day, unless the presiding priest determines otherwise;
- Each couple will be allowed to invite an equal number of guests, with due consideration that the Samaj auditorium can cater for a maximum of 600 guests. Should there be fewer than three couples, the number of guests each couple can invite will be determined by the relevant Samaj officials;
- The Samaj and its partners/sponsors will carry the costs of the following: venue hire, pujari, wedding samagri, female wedding clothes, food for guests, décor and invitations. All sponsors will be duly acknowledged. The clothes for the bride will be on loan and will need to be returned after the function.
- The wedding parties concerned will be responsible to assist with catering at the wedding.

## **PROCEDURE FOR FUNERALS**

The following procedure for funerals will be followed:

- At the time of a funeral, and if requested by the family concerned, the Samaj will handle all funeral arrangements as per the Samaj Funeral Policy;
- Members of the bereaved family will need to request financial assistance to cover the costs of the cremation;
- A means test will be conducted to determine if the family qualifies. The means test will include investigating the willingness of the extended family (if any) to assist.
- The Samaj will cover the following funeral costs: funeral samagri, crematorium charges, undertaker fees and the services of a pujari.

## **MEANS TEST**

The Health, Welfare & Gender Committee will be responsible for conducting the means test and for forwarding recommendations to the Executive Committee for a decision.

***This policy was passed at a meeting of the Executive Committee held on Monday 25 August 2014.***

## **SPHSS EXECUTIVE**