

Muslim Funeral Guide

The procedures listed below are a basic outline of the steps required to ensure a quick burial of a departed Brother or Sister in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The first step in all cases is to contact the following people immediately:

- 1) Family Doctor
- 2) Funeral Director
- 3) Local Imam
- 4) Close Relatives

Death at Home / Hospital

Cause of Death Known

A If the deceased persons GP had attended them, at home, during their last illness and, can certify the cause of death or, if at hospital, the doctor is aware of the cause of death, then a Medical Certificate will be issued free of charge, stating the cause of death.

B Inform the funeral director that a Medical Certificate has been issued. He will make arrangements with the cemetery and arrange for the body to be taken for washing.

C To register the death, you should take the Medical Certificate to the Registrar of Births and Deaths of the area where the death took place (the Registrar is usually based at the Civic Offices or the Town Hall - your doctor, local council, post office, or police station should know the address).

D When you go to the registrar you should also take the following: the deceased's NHS Medical Card (if available), Birth and Marriage Certificates (if available). You should inform the Registrar of: the date and place of death; the deceased's usual address; the deceased's date, town and country of birth; the date and place of death; the deceased's occupation and (if married) the date of birth of the deceased's widower.

E The Registrar issues 2 free certificates:

Certificate for Burial (green form) - this form should be given to the funeral director as an authorisation for burial.

Certificate of Registration of Death (form BD8)

this is for Social Security purposes and for probate etc... This certificate can be taken to the Social Security Office if you wish to claim death grant or widows benefit. You have to wait for this certificate otherwise it will be posted to you.

Further Information

In hospital deaths:

F the doctor may want to carry out a post-mortem purely for their or the hospitals satisfaction but, they have to obtain the permission of the nearest relative. You do not have to give permission in these cases and your decision is respected.

The body would normally be transferred from the ward to the hospital mortuary. But if arrangements are made swiftly, the body can be collected by the funeral director from the ward and then taken to the Masjid or funeral directors mortuary ready to be bathed.

Death at Home / Hospital

Cause of Death Unknown

If, at home, the deceased persons GP is unable to certify the cause of death, then G he/she will inform the police who in turn will inform the Coroner.

If, at hospital, the doctor is unable to certify the cause of death, then he/she will inform the Coroner¹. (The Coroner¹ is usually a doctor or lawyer responsible for investigating certain deaths).

The matter is referred to the Coroner if death occurs in any of the following circumstances at home or at hospital:

If the deceased person was not attended by a doctor during his last illness or

- after death or within 14 days prior to death
- If the cause of death is uncertain
- If death was sudden, violent or caused by an accident
- If the death occurred while undergoing an operation
- If death was caused by an industrial disease

H The Coroner will probably arrange for a post-mortem examination of the body. The main purpose of this is to ascertain the cause of death. The consent of the relatives is not needed for this. They are, however, entitled to be represented at the examination by a doctor. If they are represented, the Coroner will, if practicable, tell the relatives the time and place of examination.

I After the post-mortem:

If the death was found to be of natural causes then the Coroner's Office will issue a Pink Form (form 100).

To register the death, you should take the Pink Form to the Registrar of Births and Deaths of the area where the death took place (the Registrar is usually based at the Civic Offices or the Town Hall - your doctor, local council, post office, or police station should know the address). Follow Steps D & E.

If the cause of death is uncertain or was due to an accident, violence, or industrial disease, then an Inquest² will be held.

An Inquest is an enquiry into the medical cause and circumstances of death. It is held in public and sometimes with a jury. It is up to the Coroner to decide how to organise the enquiry in a way to best serve the public interest and the interest of the relatives.

It may be important to have a lawyer to represent you if the death was caused by a road accident, or an accident at work, or other circumstances which could lead to a claim for compensation. Contact your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau to see if you can get Legal Aid for this.

After the inquest, the Coroner will give you, free of charge, an Order for Burial (form 101), this gives permission for the body to be buried and should be given to the

funeral director so that the funeral can be held. The Coroner will also send a Certificate After Inquest (form 99), stating the cause of death, to the Registrar. This allows the death to be registered.

Other Useful Information

A Death Certificate is obtainable from the Registrar and is a certified copy of the entry in the death register. There is a fee for this certificate and one is required for the will, pension claims etc... It is better to obtain several copies straight away as the price increases if you need one later.

- During public holidays or after office hours the Certificate for Burial (green form) can be obtained from the Registrar from his/her home.

Their telephone numbers can be obtained from Civic Offices or the Town Hall. This service is only available in the event of an emergency - if burial has to take place and offices are closed.

- It is recommended that at least four persons be present to help bath and carry the body. Washing will normally take place at the funeral directors premises. The Imam of the local Masjid will be available to guide the washing and prepare the 'Kafan'.
- After performing the Janazah Prayer at the masjid or at the cemetery, if facilities are available there, the body is taken in a coffin to the graveyard. During the Summer months the last time for burial is usually 4.00 p.m. and during Winter it is normally 3.00 p.m.
- Certain cemeteries do not allow coffin boxes to be opened at the graveyard. Therefore to ensure that the head of the deceased is facing the 'Qibla' and where it is in relation to the coffin, make sure this is done before closing the coffin and before entering the cemetery.
- Some cemeteries are now allowing bodies to be buried without using a 'wooden' coffin so that Muslims can be buried in the 'Kafan' only. In most cases, prior arrangements have to be made to do this. Please check with your Local Council

Cemetery Department.

- There are several Private Muslim Burial sites throughout the UK. Funeral Directors will have details of these.
- Please see the Classified Section for 'Funeral Directors' who will be able to advise you further.

Source:

- Local Council/Authority
- Local Hospital/GP
- Funeral Directors
- Friends & Family (whose love one past away)
- Internet Search

Note: This information is from beginning of 2012. This information could change in the near future for different borough/county/district.