

## Jamaat Protocol in case of Death

When death occurs in a family, the Jamaat through its Burial Committee takes the responsibility of organising the funeral. This includes transporting the Mayyit to the Imambargah, providing Ghusl and Kafan, Dafan, Siaka Majlis / Nyaz (Kharimani) and assistance in obtaining the relevant documents.

In the event of a death, the family should contact one of the following members of the Burial Committee:

Person	Position	Home	Mobile
Brother Razahussein Moti	Chairman	0121 440 0962	0781 359 6879
Brother Riyaz Ladak	Deputy	0121 243 2642	0797 025 4783
Brother Shakir Mussa	Member	0786 677 5577	0776 622 1188

A death in the family is a very traumatic time. The most important thing, as difficult as it may seem, is to try and remain calm. Remember, help is at hand.

For all details relating to the rules of Sharia governing death, please refer to the Tauzee-ul-Masael.

If you need any further information about this guide or any advice, please do not hesitate to contact the Jamaat office (0121 446 6437) or any member of the Burial Committee.

## Stage 1 - When Death occurs

Home	Hospital
<p>A death at home invariably falls into the following two categories:</p> <p>a) Sudden</p> <p>b) Expected</p> <p>All sudden deaths fall into the "Reportable" category.</p> <p>a) Sudden - In the first instance, call 999 and ask for an ambulance. The paramedics will try to revive the patient and either certify death or will take the patient to hospital. The paramedics will, in most cases, also involve the police. The police, after establishing the circumstances, will then allow for the body to be moved for cold storage. This may either be to a hospital or to the City Coroner's mortuary. In some cases, the body may be allowed to be stored in our own cold storage facilities at the Centre.</p> <p>b) Expected - Call the patients GP. The doctor will certify death and if satisfied with the probable "Cause of Death", will issue a "Certificate of Cause of Death". The body can then be moved to a mortuary.</p> <p>Note: The "Certificate of Cause of Death" is a key document to expedite an early burial.</p>	<p>If it is known that the condition of the patient is such that death is imminent, speak to the senior member of the hospital staff (Senior Registrar or Consultant), and explain that you would like the "Certificate of Cause of Death" quickly, after the patient has been "pronounced dead", so that the body can be released from the hospital without delay, in accordance with Muslim traditions and the hospital "Rapid Release Procedures".</p> <p>All major hospitals within Birmingham are familiar with Muslim traditions and have such procedures in place.</p> <p>Obtain a "Certificate of Cause of Death", and ask for the release of the body from the hospital.</p> <p>Note: The "Certificate of Cause of Death" is a key document to expedite an early burial.</p>

## Stage 2 - Reportable Deaths (Deaths referred to the Coroner) - Further Information

Any such death, which is described as "Reportable", will require to be investigated by the HM Coroner's Office. The body will, in most cases, therefore be transferred to the Coroner's mortuary and WILL NOT be released for either burial or export until such time that all investigations are completed and relevant paperwork is issued by the Coroner.

- a) Visit the Coroner's office, located at 50 Newton Street, Birmingham, B4 6NE (Tel 0121 303 4274). Request for an early release of the body. *It is advisable to have a Member of the Burial Committee with you during this visit.*
- b) If a Post Mortem (PM) is to be carried out, a date and approximate time will be given for the collection of the relevant paperwork.
- c) If a PM is inconclusive in deciding the probable cause of death, the Coroner will call an Inquest. This is a legal formality, and will require a slot in the Coroners Court. The Coroner will open and adjourn

the inquest. At this stage, an "Interim Certificate" will be issued which will allow a local burial to take place. This process is fairly quick, however if the body is to be exported outside of UK, then it WILL NOT be released until all investigations are completed. This may take a far longer period of time.

Note: In cases where an "Interim Certificate" has been issued, the death CANNOT be registered formally until such time that the Coroner has decided a probable "Cause of Death" and the full inquest concluded.

- d) Although we do not recommend it, if a body is to be taken out of the Country, the following needs to be obtained in addition to the normal requirements:
- Certificate of Export (from the Coroner's office)
  - Declaration of Non Infectious Diseases (from the hospital, GP or Undertaker)
  - Embalming Certificate (from an authorised Undertaker)
  - Zinc-lined casket (coffin) is also required.

### **Stage 3 - Upon Issue of the "Certificate of Cause of Death"**

Upon obtaining the "Certificate of Cause of Death" or "Interim Certificate" and any other documents which may have been issued by the Coroner, GP or hospital, make sure you have the following information prior to visiting the Registry Office:

- Deceased person's full name (and the maiden surname if the deceased was a married woman)
- Deceased person's usual address
- Date and place of birth (Town and Country if born abroad)
- Date and place of death
- Occupation of the deceased (name and occupation of husband if deceased was a married woman or widow)
- Whether deceased was in receipt of a pension or allowance from public funds
- If deceased was married, the date of birth of the surviving widow or widower
- The deceased person's medical card.

Note: A death MUST be registered within 5 working days from its occurrence.

The Registrar will formally register the death at the City's Registry Office (Holliday Wharf, Holliday Street, Birmingham, B1 1TJ), and issue both the "Full Death Certificate" and the green "Notification of Burial Certificate".

### **Stage 4 - Upon Issue of the "Notification of Burial Certificate"**

- a) Pass on all the above documentation to the Burial Committee so that arrangements can be made for the Ghusl-e-Mayyit and burial slot at the Handsworth Cemetery or for assistance and advice for arranging to secure air transport to Country of repatriation.
- b) Notify the Burial Committee if the deceased had made a will, especially, if this expresses any special arrangements for or prior to their ghusl, kafan and dafan.
- c) Obtain Namaz-e-Janaza / burial time by checking the Jamaats answerphone on 0121 440 0643 and inform others as necessary.
- d) Notify the Burial Committee if the deceased belonged to the Jamaat Burial Fund. The fund covers Jamaat Members for local burials ONLY.

- e) After Namaz-e-Janaza in the Imambargah, usually after Zohrain prayers, male accompany the Janaza to the Handsworth cemetery. Ladies stay behind for a Majlis and recitation of the Holy Qur'an. When the burial party return to the Imambargah, Ziarat Majlis takes place and Siaka Nyaz (Kharimani) is served.