

# Arranging a Muslim Funeral - When a Death is Reported to the Coroner

In order to support bereaved families we have prepared a brief guidance and flow chart. Crescent Funerals has been working with Professor Catherine Mason, HM Coroner for Leicester City & South Leicestershire to provide a brief insight on what to expect when dealing with a death that has been reported to the Coroner. We hope that this guidance will help.

In accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020 a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) can be issued by a Doctor if the deceased had been:

1. Seen by any Doctor in person or by video call for a known illness **within 28 days** prior to death or:
2. Seen **after death** by any Doctor in person, **provided** the deceased was seen by any Doctor in person or by video call 28 days prior to death.

However, if neither (1) **nor** (2) above can be fulfilled then the death will be reported to the Coroner.

Furthermore, a death must also be reported to the Coroner if it was sudden and unexplained, suspicious, violent or unnatural.

## When further investigation is required.

If the coroners office decides that an investigation is necessary the Pathologist will be instructed accordingly. The Pathologist will carry out their own assessment and decide what the best course of action would be. This will either be an invasive post mortem or, where possible, a CT scan is undertaken in order to determine the cause of death. In rare cases the Pathologist will provide their findings by just inspecting the body, often referred to as "view & cause". This decision on what process to undertake is made entirely by the Pathologist and is evidence based.

If the results of the Pathologist's findings show that death was due to natural causes, the Coroner will release the body and email the Burial Order directly to the Funeral Director to allow the funeral to take place.

## When cause of death is inconclusive.

If the investigation to establish a cause of death was inconclusive, the coroner will open an inquest to establish one. In such situations the coroner will send an interim Death Certificate to the family and release the body so that the funeral can go ahead. As and when the coroner's inquest has been completed the coroner will notify the registrar so that the death can be registered.

## When an investigation is not required

The Coroner will release the body in the care of the designated Funeral Director. They will also instruct the Hospital Patient Affairs or Bereavement Services Department to issue the MCCD if death took place at the hospital or the GP if death took place at home or within the community. The MCCD will be scanned and emailed by the Hospital or GP directly to the Registrar of Births and Deaths for processing.

**Note:** No documents will be given to the family.

Once the Registration Service has received the MCCD from the hospital or issuing GP a Registrar will contact the next of kin to book a telephone appointment to complete the registration.

Once the registration has been completed the Registrar will hand the Burial Order directly to the family member who will need to hand it to the Funeral Director/Arranger so that they are able to book a burial with the Leicester City Council Cemeteries Department.

 Crescent Funerals

For more detailed information or support please visit:

**[www.crescent-funerals.com](http://www.crescent-funerals.com)**

You can also contact us at any time for any voluntary advice or support:

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