

CRESCENT FUNERALS

"Serving with Empathy and Compassion"

A Practical Guide To Preparing
A Muslim Infant Or Child For
Burial

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Introduction

Losing a child can be emotionally devastating for parents and immediate family members. It is vitally important to understand that the process of grieving is natural and to go through a range of physical and emotional processes is necessary in order for family members to come to terms with their loss. It can be very difficult to predict how one is likely to react to a loss. Some may experience sadness, denial, or disbelief, in others it could be anger and hostility. There is no right or wrong way to feel but understanding these emotions and recognising such signs can help clinicians and or nursing staff manage a number of potential situations.

Muslims accept and believe in the inevitability of death of the human body. However, they also believe that the spirit will move on to a life hereafter, which is everlasting. Death must be accepted and it is important to Muslims to be allowed to deal with the funeral rites as swiftly as possible and also be allowed to complete such rites in accordance with the teachings of their faith.

This basic guide covers all the necessary practicalities of preparing the deceased for burial in accordance to the Islamic faith. It also covers any statutory requirements and basic administrative processes to facilitate a burial.

I hope you find it helpful.

Salim Mangera
Crescent Funerals

Approaching Death

Muhtadhar (the dying)

A Muhtadhar is the one on whom the signs of death are evident. These include some or all of the following:

1. The breath quickening and becoming very irregular
2. Facial muscles relax and the jaw may drop
3. Skin can become very pale
4. The knees becoming so weak that they can't move
5. The nose bending and the temples subsiding

When these, some or all of the above signs, become evident understand that the child is nearing his or her end. It is sunnah (traditional) to let him or her lie on their right side facing the qibla (direction of Makkah). It is also permitted that they be positioned to lie on their back with their feet towards qibla and the head slightly raised with a cushion so it faces the qibla. One should also ensure that all the bed linen is clean. If moving the muhtadhar will cause them any pain or discomfort then leave them in whichever position they are most comfortable in.

Following Death

What To Do Immediately After The Moment Of Death

1. As soon as the child passes away, the eyes should be closed gently.
2. Straighten the limbs carefully. If due to certain illnesses or conditions the limbs do not move then do not force them.
3. Place the feet together.
4. Until the time of the deceased's bathing keep them covered with a clean cloth.

The one who does this may recite the following duaa:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَبِاللَّهِ وَعَلَى مِلَّةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ

*"In the name of Allah and on the creed, religion and faith of Rasulullah (Prophet Muhammad)
(peace be upon him)"*

اللَّهُمَّ يَسِّرْ عَلَيْهِ أَمْرَهُ وَسَهِّلْ عَلَيْهِ مَا بَعْدَهُ
وَأَسْعِدْهُ بِلِقَائِكَ وَاجْعَلْ مِمَّا خَرَجَ إِلَيْهِ خَيْرًا مِمَّا
خَرَجَ عَنْهُ

"O Allah! Ease upon him, his matters and make light work for him whatever comes hereafter and honour him with Your meeting and make that which he has gone to, better than that which he came out from."

Those who are grieved by this demise may recite:

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

"To Allah do we belong and to Him shall we return."

اللَّهُمَّ أَجْرِنِي فِي مُصِيبَتِي وَأَخْلِفْ لِي خَيْرًا مِنْهَا

"O Allah! Reward me in my affliction and requite me with (something) better than this."

Notifying others

1. Inform the nominated funeral director or local funeral arranger
2. Inform close relatives.

Shroud

For an infant or child being released from the hospital ward a formal shroud is not required however, we advise that a plain white cotton cloth is provided with which the child can be wrapped when being taken away. If the infant or child had lived the ritual bathing and shrouding process will be carried at the Mosque of the family's choosing.

Caskets - Caskets should be provided whenever possible. Alternatively, the nominated family funeral arranger should also be able to provide a basic MDF box to take the infant away in. Arrangements for this should be made with the family's funeral arranger in advance of any collection.

Funeral Process

As Muslims, we accept and believe in the inevitability of death of the human body. Death must be accepted and funeral rites have to be dealt with swiftly and always in a dignified manner. Most importantly, they must be completed in accordance with the teachings of our beautiful faith.

In order to deal with the practicalities of the funeral process, we offer the following important advice when a loved one passes away.

It is vital for the family to designate one person from within the family who should be given the responsibility to make all the necessary decisions in respect of funeral arrangements. This will avoid any confusion during the process.

When first contacted the designated family member will be requested to provide the following information.

1. Name of deceased child
2. Address of deceased child
3. Date of birth of deceased child
4. Date of death of deceased child
5. Age of deceased child
6. Deceased place of death
7. Name of next of kin
8. Address of next of kin
9. Date of birth of next of kin
10. Contact number of next of kin
11. Email address of next of kin.

Further information on how the death occurred may also be requested in order to understand the circumstances and give the family the appropriate advice. A brief overview of the process will be provided and will include information on which documentation will be required, and how to acquire them in order to begin making funeral arrangements.

Detailed information (including flow charts) on these processes and required documentation can be found on our website: www.crescent-funerals.com

Legal Requirements and Documentation

(England & Wales)

Certification - Medical Certificate Of Cause Of Death (MCCD)

Every death which occurs in England & Wales requires a MCCD to start the the funeral process.

The MCCD is a formal document that states the cause of death. The MCCD is issued by the hospital doctor if death took place in the hospital, or by the GP if death took place at home or a care home. The MCCD will be required by the Registrar of Births and Deaths in order to register the death.

Before the MCCD can be issued a "Verification of Death" certificate will be produced. If death occurs at home or care home the deceased's GP or the emergency doctor (in some cases a trained nurse or paramedic) will provide this. The "Verification of Death" certificate should not be confused with the MCCD.

Registration - Certificate for Burial or Cremation

Before any burial arrangement can be made, the family (next of kin) will need to register the death to obtain a a *Certificate for Burial or Cremation* or a *Certificate for Burial or Cremation (Still-Birth)*, for a still born child.

The Registrar of Births and Deaths operates a normal weekday service between 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday. They also have a provision for out of hour's registration (part) at weekends and Bank Holidays. The window for out of hour's registration is from 10am to 12pm.

Leicester City Council Burial Service Provision

Overview

The Leicester City Council's Bereavement Service is responsible for the provision and management of four cemeteries and one crematorium in the city.

Aside from the normal weekday service, the Council also has a provision for out of hour's burials, which allow burials to take place outside normal working hours, including weekends and Bank Holidays. The out of hour's burial administration service is delivered exclusively by Crescent Funerals Ltd. The service is delivered meeting professional standards with closer collaborative working with voluntary and statutory organisations across the city and county.

Summary of the out of hour's service:

1. To receive bookings for burials from Funeral Directors, Funeral Arrangers, individuals or organisations outside of the council's normal administration times;
2. To ensure that all relevant Notice of Burial application forms have been completed accurately prior to interment;
3. To ensure all relevant statutory documentation such as the Registrar's Certificate for Burial or Cremation (Green) or Coroner's Order for Burial, have been received prior to interment;
4. To liaise with the council's on call cemetery staff and to ensure all relevant statutory documentation is delivered to the cemetery staff for checking prior to interment;
5. To provide advice to Funeral Directors, Funeral Arrangers, individuals or community organisations about the council's cemetery fees, grave options and cemetery regulations.

Cemetery Bookings

Administration Timings

In Hour's

All bookings for burials that can be completed during the Council's normal administration hours must be arranged through the Council's Bereavement Services office, even if the actual burial time falls into "out of hour's".

The Council's Cemeteries Department normal administration times (excluding public holidays) are:

Monday to Thursday: 8:30am to 5:00pm

Friday: 8:30am to 4:30pm

To allow time for the processing of burial paperwork the cut-off for same-day burials by the Council will be 3:00 pm Monday to Friday.

Out of Hour's

For an out of hour's burial booking Funeral Directors and Funeral Arrangers must contact Crescent Funerals. Our out of hours administration times are:

Summer (April - September)

Monday to Friday: After 3:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am to 3:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am to 3:00pm

Bank Holidays*: 9:00am to 3:00pm

Winter (October - March)

Saturday: 9:00am to 3:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am to 3:00pm

Bank Holidays*: 9:00am to 3:00pm

*No burials will be permitted on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

Note: Booking of burial slots cannot be done in advance of the registration or the out of hour's booking process outlined below.

Note: A minimum of two hours notice period will be required for any out of hours burial booking.

Contact

Crescent Funerals

www.crescent-funerals.com

Funeral Arranging - **07833 533 490**

Email: crescentfunerals@gmail.com

7 - Days a Week: 8am - 10pm

Out of Hour's Burials - **07999 776593**

Email: bookings@crescent-funerals.com

Summer: Monday to Friday: After 3pm
 Weekends & Bank Holidays: 9am to 3pm

Winter: Weekends & Bank Holidays: 9am to 3pm