

Muslim Funeral Information

Please contact Dr. Sayyed Ishrat Ali Zaidi (440-991-7325), or any of the following in case he is unavailable, Dr. Parvez Ashraf (440-391-0979), Dr. Tosadaq Ahmed (440-785-5310), Isa Abdul Matin (216-214-3508), Mohamed Fahmy (440-867-6360) for the detailed information about Muslim funeral and burial process.

Baitul Maal of Greater Cleveland (**BMGC**, supported by four masjids, CVIC, MACE, Uqbah and CMCC) has purchased a separate lot specifically for Muslim burial in Crown Hill Cemetery. This is a well-maintained cemetery located in Twinsburg, OH that allows to burry Muslims as per complete sharia (Islamic rules) i.e. body directly on the ground without a cement vault or casket, face towards Kaaba, no requirement of embalming of dead body etc. It has lower negotiated rates that do not double on week ends/holidays, which is the case with other cemeteries.

What to do in case of death:

1. Close the eyes of deceased, straight the arms on the sides, and tie a band around the jaws so that mouth remain closed after death.
2. Clean the orifices if there is any discharge (saliva, nasal secretion, blood, urine or stool) especially stool or blood otherwise a hospital staff or funeral staff (probably a male) will take of the clothes and sanitize the body. You do not want for a Muslim lady better to clean yourself.
3. Turn the face toward the right shoulder so at the time of burial face remains towards the Kaaba (If it is not done then do not worry, in that case the body tilted on one side in the grave to face kaaba).
4. Select any funeral home of your choice and call them to pick up the body from home or hospital. It is important to inform funeral home that it is Muslim's dead body (so no embalming or removal of intestine or internal organs take place). Request not to sanitize body especially for a female body.
5. For kafan/shroud, buy three king size **white** flat bed sheets (108"x72") (they should not be very transparent) for male and four sheets for female. Shorter length (80"x52") will not work. **Note: The wrapping sheet of kafan should be at least 6-8" long on both sides (head and feet) to hold and transport the body to grave.** Also buy one bottle of perfume and one bar soap. See below for how to perform *ghusul* and *kafan*/shroud the body.
6. Ohio law may or may not allow storing dead body at home more than four hours (I do not know so please check the law if you are planning for a home funeral). Many states allow for home funeral.
7. **Remember**, they are there to make money and take advantage of your grief situation. Usually they charge a lot of money (up to \$ 6000 on weekdays and price doubles on weekends) therefore, we have negotiated rates in advance with few funeral homes and have used them in past. They accommodate Muslim funeral needs such as not taking clothes off/washing of female bodies. To take advantage of these rates please inform them that it is a Muslim funeral and we have **negotiated rates by Dr. Zaidi**. Remember they charge extra for everything, flowers or smile so please check the price before ordering.

Suggested funeral homes are listed below:

Steinbauer Funeral Home, 33375 Bainbridge Rd, Solon, OH 44139

Phone: (440) 248-6088, Price: \$1,420 (negotiated rate)

Cummings & Davis Funeral Home, 13201 Euclid Ave, East Cleveland, OH 44112

Phone: (216) 541-1111 (Anne, contact person), Price: \$ 1,728 (negotiated rate)

Blessing Funeral Home, 8592 Darrow Rd, Twinsburg, OH 44087

Phone: (330) 963-4100, Price: \$2,400 (this is located onsite at Crown Hill Cemetery)

What is covered in these funeral home charges: The funeral home will pick up the body from the hospital/home, provide space for the GHUSL, store the body for one day, bring to the masjid for *salat-al-janaaza* (last prayer for dead body) and then carry it to the cemetery in a hearse (especial van to carry dead body).

What is not covered: These funeral rates **do not include** the costs of **casket**, rent of casket, cost of Kafan (burial cloth/shroud), *ghusul* service (washing of the body), *janaza* prayer, perfumes, *kafoor* (camphor), flowers, gravesite services (prayer or laying body in grave) etc. We (our community) have to wash our body ourselves, provide *kafan*/shroud, bring body in and out of masjid from hearse van (we have asked them not to enter in masjid), make arrangement for *janaaza* prayer, and place the body in grave. For any of these services from funeral home you have to pay extra. We have one basic casket stored in MACE masjid that can be carried easily in a minivan (by folding or removing the seats). One has to pick up from there, take to the funeral home and bring back to masjid after burial for free. Alternatively, you can rent casket at an additional cost of \$ 100-500 from funeral home depending on what type of casket you chose.

Burial:

Crown Hill Cemetery, Section 39, 8592 Darrow Rd, Twinsburg, OH 44087, Phone: (330) 425-8128

The body should arrive to the cemetery before **3:30 PM** to be buried on that day. Please call Dr. Zaidi in morning for grave digging and burial arrangements.

Costs: \$ 1798 (payable to Crown Hill Cemetery through check, credit card or cash), which, includes digging, closing, cement cover (vault); and \$ 500 for the plot (payable to BMGC only in the form of **check or cash**). The cost of headstone/name plate is not included and is **not mandatory**. In case of rain or snow they provide tent with extra charges (\$ 200). You have to request them if you need one. Flowers etc. are not included in this cost. BMGC sells additional plots next to the deceased for relatives (\$ 500 each).

Donation/Sadqae Jaaria: BMGC is a **charitable, nonprofit organization** and runs on donations. Please **donate generously** to BMGC for *sadqe Jaria* for the deceased. We have to pay 90,000 for this section in next three years. For a needy Muslim, you can buy a grave (\$ 500) or donate the opening/closing cost of a grave (\$ 1798), or pay the funeral home charges (1500 to 2500) so that he/she can be buried with **dignity**.

If you are not in a position to donate big amount I would encourage you to donate one dollar so that deceased get a continuous *sadqe jaaria* for ever (amount does not matter but the intentions matter).

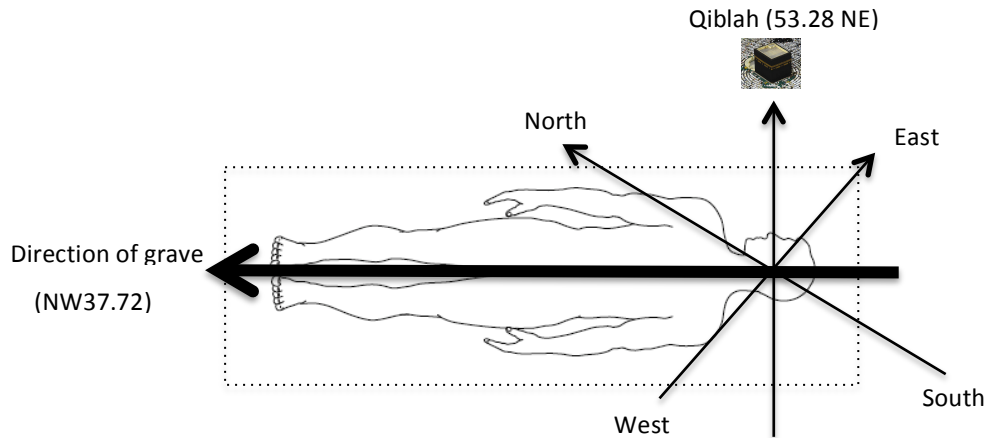
Note: Normally all cemeteries try to sell headstone and its installation at a very high price. We do not recommend purchasing a headstone at this moment of grief. You can shop around later at your convenience to save money.

How to perform *ghusul* and *kafan*:

1. First take off the clothes, cover the private parts with a towel or any other cloth, lift the body from head side at 45 degree angle and press belly to empty urinary bladder or rectum.
2. Clean the body and clean the table. Remember, private parts should be covered all the time.
3. Give *wudu* (do not forget to do "*masaa*" on forehead), avoid pouring water inside mouth, nose or inside body cavity in case of surgery etc. Just clean them with wet cloth.
4. Pour water on the right side first and then on left side. Dry the body and the table.
5. Place perfume or camphor on the seven body parts those touches the ground during prayer (forehead, nose, palms, knee, ankle and feet). In addition place perfume inside mouth and nose. You can also place perfume on any other part of the body you want.
6. Place perfume on one cotton swab and insert in anus if stool is fluid or is releasing gradually. If after complete *ghusul* stool or urine releases, just clean it. You do not have to give another *ghusul*. If body fluid is oozing from wounds/surgical holes then keep cotton pads on that area and place body on a plastic sheet before placing it in casket.
7. On another dry table first place three bands then the biggest outer sheet of "*kafan*", then the back portion of "*kameez/kurta*" aligning the cut for the head, the front portion of "*kameez*" will be rolled back, then place the "*tehmad*" (no stitching of these items to fit the body). Stitching on the edges of sheets is no problem.
8. Transfer the body on this table. Wrap the "*tehmad*" first then insert the head in the cut and move the rolled part of "*kameez*" in front. Wrap them around the body.
9. Then cover the body with biggest sheet and tie the bands. Keep in mind that the middle band should be strong as occasionally it is used to lift the body.
10. **Note:** For female body you have to use two additional cloths, one to cover the chest ("*Orni*") and another to cove the hairs (*hijab*). If you wish a dark color cloth can be used for "*Orni*". The last sheets should be wide enough to wrap the whole body and long enough to cover the head and feet and leaving six to eight inches cloth to hold for transportation. The central band should be strong to lift the body.

11. Female body should be placed inside the grave by “mehram” relatives if possible. See below how to place the body in grave.

Direction of the grave and how to lay body in the grave: If you are burying in any other cemetery then show them the following diagram to select a gravesite. Different sections of cemetery have different directions of graves and you may find a right one.



Always body is placed in grave so that right shoulder is towards the Qiblah

Transportation of body out of the country: To transport the body out of country needs especial procedures called embalming (take out blood, put fixative (chemicals) in the blood vessels, removing internal organs (intestines etc.). Then the body is sealed in especial container. Most of the time in USA morticians are male who perform embalming therefore personally **I do not recommend** Muslim bodies to go through this process especially for our **female bodies**. There is additional cost for this process and transportation. We have not negotiated any price for this process. You negotiate yourself with funeral home and/or transportation agency. The total cost ranges from \$ 7,000-12,000.

Salat-al-janaaza: This is the last gift you give to the deceased in Islam by making dua for *maghfirat* for the deceased. There is no *Azaan or Iqamaah* for this *salah*. Make as many rows as possible in odd numbers. If possible pray outside the musallah. Make a *niyat/intention* for *salat-al-janaaza*, *farze kifaaya* with four *takbeers* (*Allah hu akbar*). After **first takbeer**, recite *Sanna* (*subhanallah.....*) and then *surah Fatiyah*, after **second takbeer** recite *Durude Ibraheem*, after **third takbeer** make especial *dua* for the deceased (in Arabic or your own language), then make dua for all the Muslims who are dead or live and then you make *dua* for yourself. After **fourth takbeer** say Salam to end the *salat*.

Note: Imam stands in the center of casket for a female and towards the head for a male.

Participating Masjids

Chagrin Valley Islamic Center 33725 Station Street Solon, OH 44139	Muslim Association of Cleveland East (MACE) 25900 Chardon Rd. Richmond Heights, OH 44143
Uqbah Mosque Foundation 2222 Stokes Blvd. Cleveland OH 44128	Cleveland Muslim Community Center (CMCC) 4600 Rocky River Dr. Cleveland OH 44135

Please feel free to give me a call if you have any question/clarification about this sheet or want to donate to BMGC.
Dr. Sayyed Ishrat Ali Zaidi, (440) 991-7325, 30600 Stratford Drive, Solon, OH 44139.