

WESSEX JAMAAT BURIAL POLICY

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ۖ ثُمَّ إِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ

“Every soul shall taste death, then to us you shall be brought back.” 29:57

The final rites of deceased Muslim including ghusl, kafan, salat mayyit and dafan is obligatory on the guardian of the deceased. Upon receiving Consent from the guardian volunteers of the Wessex Shia Ithna Asheri jamaat will endeavour to provide support to guardian of the deceased and the bereaved family in discharging the obligations of the final rites and arranging the funeral.

THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDES THE BURIAL POLICY OF THE WESSEX JAMAAT.

The Wessex Jamaat Burial Policy is to be read in conjunction with other related policies of the Wessex Jamaat including the WJ Safeguarding Policy, In Case of Death Policy, WJ Burial Scheme, Wessex COVID Mayyit Protocol.

Our funerals are primarily to help mourners cope with their grief, but also meant to offer hope for a good afterlife for the deceased. Whilst this wajib act has to be performed with utmost sensitivity, compassion and care, there are conditions which make up this policy. These are as follows:

1. **DEATH AND BURIAL CERTIFICATES** - these have to be obtained by the burial coordinator and the family before any action is taken. The hospital mortuary will not allow the deceased to be collected without these certificates. If the deceased died at home, the local GP will be contacted to issue the death certificate. The coroner may request an autopsy if the deceased was not seen by their doctor 2 weeks before their death.
2. **GHUSUL AND KAFAN** - WJ burial team will only perform all the funeral rites for the deceased in accordance to the Jaffery Shia Ithna Asheri Islamic jurisprudence. For example, we are unable to dress the deceased in clothes instead of kafan. Guidance and consent needs to be sought for laying any additional items if desired by the bereaved family.

The towels, sponges and other items used for each ghusl is disposed for hygiene. Family members to a maximum of 4 are able to take part in the ghusl if they wish. All those involved in ghusl and kafan will normally wear

gloves, and apron. Since Covid 19, all have to wear personal protective equipment PPE.

3. **TALQEEN AND NAMAZ MAYAAT** - This is performed after the Kafan. Usually it is performed by our Resident Alim at the mosque or the cemetery. During the covid 19 close down of the mosque this will be performed at the cemetery. After the Kafan, arrangements will be done for the bereaved family members to view and spend some time with their loved one.
4. **BURIAL LOCATION** - the family decide where they wish the deceased to be buried depending on their residence address. Alhamdulillah there are Muslim burial plots in Portsmouth, Southampton, Bournemouth, Chichester, Brighton, and Fareham. Burial Plots at Fareham Cemetery (Wickham Road) have been allocated to Wessex Jamaat on the condition that the plots are for members of Wessex Jamaat. A non-member wishing to be buried in Fareham, can become a member at the time of their burial.

THE GRAVE - in some cemeteries including Fareham, the graves are dug two levels. In double level graves, both levels belong to the family as they would pay for the grave. Two level graves are slightly more expensive in most cemeteries, but for the second burial in that grave, the family would only pay for the internment and not the grave. We as a rule, dig the graves in two levels to save on the plots used.

The burials in Fareham Cemetery need to be with a coffin. Options for Non-coffin (Shrouded) burial are available in Portsmouth Kingston cemetery and Southampton. The family agrees to abide by Cemetery regulations including maintaining the graves as laid out by the respective City /Council authorities.
5. **HEADSTONE** - in our application for internment to the council, we apply for ownership so that the family can erect a headstone a year after the burial. Other alternative is unpurchased grave where no headstone will be allowed, and other deceased can be buried in that grave after 70 years. In purchased graves, it gives ownership for 30 years renewable, and a headstone can be erected. The cost of the headstone is extra charged by the headstone masons.
6. **COSTS RELATING TO GHUSUL AND KAFAN.**- The volunteers undertake all the services of the final rites solely for seeking the pleasure of Allah SWT. Wessex Jamaat does not charge for undertaking any of the final burial rites of the deceased.

The family of the deceased is charged for the kafan, towels and sponges, also including cleaning of the ghusl room. Presently it is £50. If it is a covid case on the death certificate, then presently £300 is charged for fumigation after the use of ghusl room.

7. **FUNERAL DIRECTORS COST** - the family can either choose their own funeral directors for the transport of the deceased, or we can use our local funeral directors. In either case the family will pay for the full cost of the transport and coffin. This cost depends on miles travelled and how many times transport takes place.
8. **FAMILIES NOT KNOWN** - if the deceased and family of the deceased were not known to the mosque, the Burial Coordinator may at his discretion request advance payment for the costs before the funeral. This is to safeguard the charity.
9. **NEW WJ BURIAL PLOT**. The second burial plot at Wickham cemetery was purchased by Wessex Jamaat charity. The cost of each grave is £490 plus £150 admin making a total of £640 per grave. The family will still have to pay other costs including internment. At the time of producing policy (11/08/2020), the Council internment charge is £865 for people resident in Fareham or £1730 for those who reside outside Fareham.
10. **MOURNERS** - Mourners at an Islamic funeral may express grief, but only within certain standards of decorum. Loud wailing, for example, is not permitted. Neither are other outward signs of extreme emotion, such as ripping of clothes, thrashing about, sacrilegious speech, and self-injury. Crying is permitted. Wessex Jamaat do not allow ladies to attend the funeral at Fareham cemetery. If ladies from family of the deceased would like to be present, they are requested to stay separately and arrangements will be done for an opportunity to pay their respects .
11. **PHOTOGRAPHY** - Consent needs to be sought prior to taking any pictures of Video filming. However Traditional Muslim funeral etiquette discourages mourners from taking pictures or in any other way recording any part of the funeral prayer service.
12. **GATHERING AFTER BURIAL** - After the prayer service and the burial, mourners may gather at the home of the immediate family. This is when it is appropriate to express your condolences to the family and support them in their grief.

Traditionally, a meal is served. Socializing is believed to help the family cope with their loss. The family may also ask to use the mosque at the normal charge of use of the mosque.

13. CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY:

It is recommended that the grieving family should be given condolences. Thus community members may join for the funeral programmes and extend condolences.

14. OTHER CHARGES - No charge is made to the family for undertaking the final rites of the deceased and arranging of the burial. Families however can and are encouraged to make a donation to the mosque fund for the thawaab of the marhum / marhuma.

Note that any costs stated in this policy are valid presently. They may be subject to revision whenever the need arises.

15. COMMUNICATION:

- a) The family of the deceased will appoint one representative who will be in constant communication with the Burial Team Co Ordinator.
- b) For an efficient and smooth discharge of these final rites of the deceased, the Burial Team Coordinator will be in close liaison with the WJ appointed representative.
- c) Matters regarding clarification on the jurisprudence rulings are to be referred to the Resident Alim.

16. MOURNERS ATTENDING THE CEMETERY

Due to the pandemic it is advised that the number of attendees should be restricted to 30 persons for public health reasons. All attendees must wear face masks and observe social distancing.

17. REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

The Jamaat will review this policy on an annual basis on 1st January. The review will include fees mentioned above and Covid 19 regulations etc.

Hamid Samiy (The Burial Coordinator) 11/08/2020