

Muslims funeral arrangements in Finland

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

"Indeed, we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return."

-Qur'aan 2:156-

Losing a relative or close friend is a moment that often paralyses us momentarily. It is a moment that reminds us of Allaah's degree and power of inevitable future. The person you knew, is no longer with you but rather started the journey to the Hereafter.

Regardless of the pain and sorrow that overwhelms us, we must gather some strength to take care of the funeral arrangements that the beloved would be buried as soon as possible. These guidelines are here to help you to go through these difficult times smoothly in sha' Allaah.

May Allaah be Merciful and Forgiving to your beloved and ease your sorrow and pain. Aamiin.

ON THE DAY OF DEATH

- Doctor will write the certification of death and permission for burial in the hospital. Ask for the documents to be written as soon as possible for rushing the burial.
- Contact your local masjid or contact person who will help you in the arrangements of burial wash and Janazah (burial).
- Call the funeral home. Call also your local social office in case you need financial aid for the costs. Funeral homes arrange all transportations between graveyard and hospital. They also help you with all documentations and possible issues with heritage. Notice that they normally charge for extra services.
- You should buy the shroud material for the deceased. Shop called *Eurokangas* sells white bed linen material per meter. Normally men need approximately 8 meters and women about 10 metres of fabric. This might vary according to the size of the deceased.
- Do not forget to let the relatives and friends know about the death of beloved.

FUNERAL DAY

- Deliver the shroud fabric to the people who are in charge of the burial wash. The washing normally takes place the same day as burial.
- If anyone among the family or close friends would like to take part in the burial washing, it is advisable to let the people in charge know this in advance. The burial wash procedure needs always extra hands to help.

DURING THE WEEK

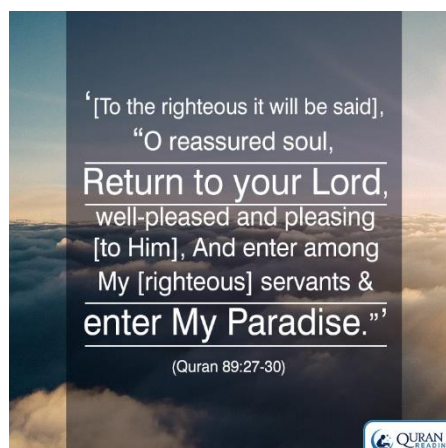
- Order a registration papers (virkatodistus) of the deceased from the Registry office (Maistraatti). They are indispensable for the affairs of the deceased such as closing the bank accounts and for legal documentation of distributing of an inheritance.
- Cancel direct debit contracts such as applications in mobiles and tablets. National registration program receives direct notice from the hospital and soon after they will notify banks who will freeze the bank accounts and cancel the bankcards.
- Cancel the internet and telephone contracts of the deceased.
- Contact Kela for the possible benefits such as widows' pension or family pension.

WITHIN 3 MONTHS

- Estate inventory is legally requested procedure in Finland that should be done within 3 months from the death. If the deceased had a lot of property, it is advisable to hire a professional to this job. It might be complicated to work these documents alone. Estate inventory will confirm and approve this document and tax office determines the potential inheritance tax which is compulsory to pay to the government.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Remember to make dua'a to the deceased
- Call the local masjid (mosque) or contact person or the number below
- Call the funeral home
- Call the Social office if you need voucher for the funeral costs.
- Let the relatives and friends know about the news
- Pay the debts of the deceased before the burial if possible
- Buy the shroud fabric before the burial wash
- Order registration papers from all the locations the deceased have lived before for the estate inventory. Hire a professional if needed.



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