



Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley

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MALV Burial Process Details

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This guide is in the format of a quick reference manual to be used when death occurs in any Muslim family in the Lehigh Valley, PA. It is not intended to be a detailed explanation of the burial Procedures explained here. It is intended to give an idea about what needs to happen to have a proper Muslim burial for your loved ones.

1.0 When a Muslim/Muslimah is at the Point of Death

Family members of the dying person and his most pious friends should be informed and should be present at his side to help him turn his thoughts to Allah. They should encourage him very gently to repent, remind him about all the good deeds that he did, about Allah's mercy, and Allah's forgiveness so that he may anticipate Allah's mercy and Allah's favors.

Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said: "Let no Muslim die except expecting and hoping the best from Allah" (Muslim). Those who are present near a dying Muslim should do the following:

- a. They should be kind and patient.
- b. They should never leave him alone.
- c. They should give him hope, not allowing him to collapse out of pain or panic.

The following are the sunnah that Islam encourages us to do over a dying person:

- a. Advise the dying person to say La ilaha illa-Allah [There is no god but Allah] - The purpose is to remind him of the Oneness of Allah.
- b. Lay the dying person (If possible) so that the qibla is on his right side.
- c. Recite Surah Yaasin from the Qur'an.
- d. They should make Dua' (Supplicate) to Allah to help him go through situation easy, and forgive him.

2.0 When Death Occurs

When the person is confirmed dead, family members or those who are present should first say: Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi rajji'un [Verily we belong to Allah, and truly to Him shall we return.

2.1 If Death Occurs in the Hospital

- a. Ask the doctor in attendance to issue a death certificate. This is extremely important. Without this the County will not issue an internment certificate. Without these two documents, it is illegal to move the body and/or bury it.
- a. Call the Muslim Association of Lehigh valley to get guidance on immediate next steps. The following members of MALV should be contacted

- i. Nagi Latefa 610-570-5539
- ii. Abdelhadi Ahmad 610-462-6776
- iii. Akbar Rafiuddin 610-428-8282

- b. Call the Funeral home (Bachman, kulik & Reinsmith Funeral home) and arrange for the body to be transferred to the funeral home. the number for funeral home is (610-432-4128)

The funeral director will secure the release of the body from the hospital and move it to the funeral home, where the washing and preparation for burial will take place. The funeral director will also arrange to secure the interment certificates from the county. All of the above are separately charged services. Please consult with the Masjid funeral representative before signing up for these services: Under no circumstances should the body be handed over for embalming or autopsy services (unless the police is involved) as these are strictly prohibited in Islam.

2.2. If Death Occurs At Home

- a. Call 911 – Even if the death is due to terminal illness
- b. Call the family doctor. If none available, the 911 response team will take over the process and ensure the death certificate is issued by the county office (typically the Coroner's Office)
- c. Call the Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley. The following members of MALV should be contacted

- i. Nagi Latefa 610-570-5539
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Preparation for Washing the Deceased (Ghusl)

3.1 Kafan and Ghusl Materials

The following materials are needed for washing the deceased (Ghusl) and for shrouding (Kafan) after the Ghusl. The Masjid (The Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley) carries Kafan kits. Also, the Masjid will provide a trained Muslim brother or sister to assist in these steps, Insha'Allah.

3.2 People who can and should give Ghusl

When a Muslim dies, it is the responsibility of his family or other Muslims to wash him according to the Islamic rites of washing the deceased.

Two or three persons may perform the washing. The person(s) who may wash the deceased should:

- a. Be a trustworthy and honest adult Muslim(s).
- b. Know the Islamic way of washing the dead and be able to carry out the washing. Not make any comment on the body of the deceased.

NOTE:

Close relations are encouraged for washing the body if the deceased is a male, then ONLY males should wash him.

If the deceased is a female, then ONLY females should wash her. For a married person, the spouse may perform the washing.

For a child, either males or females may do the washing.

3.0 Transportation to the Masjid for Funeral Prayers (Salat –ul –Janazah)

The deceased should be transferred to the Masjid for Salat–ul–Janazah . This transfer is a service done by the funeral home in the hearse provided by them.

- a. Salatul Janazah is required to be performed in congregation to request pardon for the deceased and all dead Muslims, and to wrap them all in Allah’s Mercy.
- b. Salatul Janazah is a collective obligation. A Muslim should not hesitate to participate in it, whether or not the deceased or his relatives are known to him.
- c. Salatul Janazah is said silently, except the Takbeer and Tasselem. All conditions for regular Salat are required in Salatul Janazah such as Tahara, Wudu, clean body and clothes, neeyah (Intention), and facing the Qiblah.

4.0 Funeral Prayers – Method

- a. All conditions for regular Salat are required in Salatul Janazah such as Tahara, Wudu, clean body and clothes, neeyah (Intention), and facing the Qiblah.
- b. Muslims should form a minimum of three lines facing the Qiblah.
- c. The one most closely related to the deceased (son, father, brother etc.) is most qualified to lead the Salat, even over the Imam of the Masjid, provided he knows how to conduct the Salat/ Janazah.
- d. If such a person is not available or cannot do it then the Imam of the Masjid or any other knowledgeable Muslim can lead the prayer
- e. If there is only one Muslim with the Imam, he should stand behind the Imam.
- f. There is No Rukuh, Sujud, Athan, or Iqama.

5.0 Transportation to the Cemetery

5.1 Route Maps and Funeral Stickers

Make copies of the route maps and distribute to all joining the funeral procession and Handout the funeral stickers to everyone. The funeral home will usually supply these to the family.

5.2 Traffic Rules

- a. Obey all traffic rules as you would otherwise; there are no special dispensations for funeral Processions.
- b. Ensure everyone knows where the cemetery is; that way they need not drive dangerously to be together with the procession.
- c. Leave headlights on; this makes it easier for others to know there is a funeral procession

6.0 Cemetery Address

50 Kimmet Ave

Whitehall, PA 18052

7.0 Burial Procedure

Need to fill some data in here.

8.0 Special Cases

8.1 Miscarried Fetus

If the fetus is less than four months old (Mother was pregnant for less than four months) then the fetus may not be washed; the fetus should be wrapped in a piece of white cloth and buried. Then there is no Salatul Janazah for this fetus.

If the fetus is more than four months old (Mother was pregnant for more than four months), then the fetus may be washed, shrouded (Using one or two winding sheets to cover the whole body), and then Muslims have the choice whether to perform Salatul Janazah or not.

9.0 Prayers and Condolences

It is a Muslim's duty to offer condolences, comfort, and sympathy to the family and the relatives of the deceased. This strengthens the relationships within the Muslim community.

When offering condolences, words should be chosen carefully and said gently to convey sympathy and to encourage the family and the relatives of the deceased to accept Allah's will and to help them to get back to their normal life.

Condolences may be offered to the family and to the relatives of the deceased before, during or after burial.

10. Costs involved

The cost for the entire burial services may slightly vary from the cost listed below as we are continuously looking for avenues to reduce the cost.

10.1 Burial Plot

The Muslim Association of Leigh Valley currently owns a set of burial plots at the Laurel Cemetery. The **Cemetery is located at 50 Kimmert Avenue, Whitehall, PA 18052**. Each plot is currently being sold to MALV members at \$400 per plot, \$600 for non MALV Members. The price is subject to change in future. We encourage everyone to get a plot immediately

10.2 Funeral Home Services (610-432-4128)

We currently use Bachman, Kulik & Reinsmith Funeral Home, Inc located at 1229 Hamilton Street, Allentown PA 18102 for our burial services. Phone 610-432-4128. Below are the details of their charges

A. Services:

1. Basic Services of the funeral director and staff	\$ 2000.00
2. Graveside committal service	\$ 50.00
3. Transfer of remains to Funeral Home	\$ 200.00
4. Unstained Finished Birch box & Grave marker, Gave side serv	\$ 235.00
5. Hearse transportation to cemetery (Local, beyond 25 miles Radius \$1:50 per mile one way)	\$ 200.00

Typical Total Funeral Home Charges \$ 2685:00

10.3 Other Charges (Cemetery Charges)

a. Cemetery (Open & Close Grave & Setup) (Weekday after 3:00pm, Saturday, Sunday or holidays will incur Extra charges set by the cemetery)	\$ 725.00
b. Laurel Cemetery	\$ 500.00
c. Vault	\$ 475.00
d. Grave(\$400 for Members, \$600 for non MALV Members)	\$ 600.00

Typical Total Cost (\$2685 + \$2300) \$ 4985.00

10.4 MALV Charges

Please Note that MALV services are done by Volunteers and MALV does not charge anything for its services. The costs that you incur are directly from services provided by Funeral Home and Laurel Cemetery. However, any donation to the Masjid/Mosque is greatly encouraged and very much appreciated.