

Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society (LMWS)



Lanarkshire Central Mosque (Jamia Masjid جامع مسجد)

The Final Journey: Muslim Funeral Procedures

Introduction

Death is a certainty for all living creatures. Islam provides a definite procedure for the final journey, the Muslim burial, which is sometimes referred to as the janaza, dafan, or tadfin. Mosques have a duty to perform these funeral rituals with care and respect.

Our mosque serves all local community Muslims regardless of ethnic background. The local Muslim population is largely South Asian, and Lanarkshire's largest mosque is situated in Bellshill. **The cemetery is located in Cambusnethan, Wishaw.**

The funeral procedures of Lanarkshire Mosque are informed equally by Scots law and Islamic principles. We hope this guide is informative and helpful to all communities.

Death can be an emotionally overwhelming time. Whenever death occurs, it is helpful to nominate one family member who feels most able to take on the responsibility of initiating funeral arrangements in accordance with Lanarkshire Mosque protocols.

Key Documents: Death Certificate and Form 14

The first step in all cases is to obtain a Death Certificate (DC) via a GP or hospital.

IMPORTANT: The Death Certificate alone is NOT sufficient to proceed with funeral arrangements. The most important document is Form 14, which must be collected from the local Registrar of Births and Deaths office. Once Form 14 has been received by the Funeral Director, funeral procedures can begin.

Categories of Death

Most deaths fall into one of three categories. The procedures for each are set out in the table below and described in full in the following sections.

EXPECTED	UNEXPECTED	UNNATURAL
<p>In the community:</p> <p>Contact GP to issue Death Certificate</p> <p>In hospital:</p> <p>Request Death Certificate from hospital staff</p>	<p>In the community:</p> <p>Inform GP. If GP unwilling, contact Procurator Fiscal. Police may be involved.</p> <p>In hospital:</p> <p>Hospital may issue DC or request a post-mortem (PM).</p>	<p>Accidental, road traffic, suicide, assault, etc.</p> <p>Police involvement. Post-mortem usually required. Death Certificate issued after PM.</p>

1A. Expected Death in the Community (e.g. at Home)

Step 1: Obtain the Death Certificate

Monday to Friday (working hours): Contact the deceased's GP to inform them of the death and request the Death Certificate.

Weekends and out of hours: Call NHS 24 on 111.

If you encounter any difficulties, contact the Funeral Director (FD) for assistance.

Do not disturb the body

Step 2: Inform the Funeral Director

Notify the Funeral Director as soon as possible:

- Phone: 07891 010830 / 01698 730650
- Email: info@lanarkshiremosque.com

Once the Death Certificate has been collected from the GP, inform the FD. The FD will collect the body from the home and transport it to the Mosque mortuary

Step 3: Register the Death and Obtain Form 14

The family must contact the Registrar's office. Contact the appropriate office depending on your location:

- Motherwell: 01698 302206
- Hamilton: 0303 123 1015
- Airdrie: 01236 758080
- Cumbernauld: 01236 632740

Request Form 14 (ask for the abbreviated Death Certificate). Submit the completed Form 14 to the Funeral Director.

Funeral arrangements cannot proceed until Form 14 has been received by the Funeral Director.

1B. Expected Death in Hospital

1. Request the hospital to issue the Death Certificate as soon as possible.
2. Inform the Funeral Director.
3. If there are any difficulties with the hospital, contact the FD who can liaise with the attending doctor on your behalf (07766 424474).
4. If the cause of death is unclear, the hospital may request a post-mortem.
5. Once the Death Certificate is issued, follow the Form 14 procedures above.

2. Unexpected Death

In the Community

6. Contact the GP and request a Death Certificate.
7. Inform the Funeral Director if the GP is willing to issue the Death Certificate.
8. If the GP is unwilling, they may inform the Procurator Fiscal (PF).
9. The PF may direct the GP to issue the certificate, or may involve the Police.
10. If the PF and Police are satisfied, they may request the GP to issue the Death Certificate.
11. If not satisfied, a post-mortem may be required. The Death Certificate will be issued following the post-mortem.

In all cases, inform the Funeral Director as soon as possible.

3. Unnatural Death

This category covers accidental deaths, road traffic deaths, suicides, and assaults.

- Police will be involved.
- A post-mortem is usually required.
- The Death Certificate is issued following the post-mortem.
- Inform the Funeral Director of the death as soon as possible.

Funeral Procedure

Once Form 14 has been received, the following steps take place:

Ghusl (Ritual Washing)

The Funeral Director will arrange the ghusl (the ritual washing of the body) and will inform cemetery staff to prepare for burial. Gender-appropriate volunteers perform the ghusl, and a limited number of gender-appropriate family members may be present on request. Privacy and dignity are maintained throughout.

Kafan (Shrouding) and Viewing

Following ghusl, the body is shrouded in a kafan and placed in the coffin by volunteers. The coffin is then kept in the library room for viewing, primarily for family members, including female members and friends.

Where the deceased is female, in accordance with Islamic guidance, only female members and immediate male family will be permitted to view the body.

Janaza Prayer

As the time for the janaza prayer approaches, the casket will be closed and taken to the Janaza Khana (prayer room) before the Fard (obligatory congregational) prayer. The janaza prayer is offered following the Fard prayer.

For a male deceased, the coffin will again be available for brief public viewing in the janaza room after the prayer. There will be no further viewing for a female deceased.

The Mosque will share information regarding the janaza prayer and burial details via its social media accounts.

Burial (Dafan)

The coffin is transferred to the hearse and taken to the cemetery (kabarastan) in **Cambusnethan Cemetery** (384 Kirk Rd, Cambusnethan, Wishaw ML2 8NP), Wishaw. The Imam will lead the duas and ceremony for lowering the body and covering it in earth.

After the Burial

Those who attended the burial or the janaza prayer at the mosque return to the mosque where food is provided, usually arranged by the bereaved family.

Funeral Costs

Description	Approximate Cost
Deceased from the same council locality	£4,000
Deceased from another council locality (additional charge)	+£500
Total (out-of-locality)	£4,500

Key Contacts

Funeral Director

Contact	Phone	Email
Funeral Director, LMWS Mosque	07891 010830 / 01698 730650	info@lanarkshiremosque.com

Registrar Offices

Office	Phone	Email
Motherwell (North Lanarkshire)	01698 302206	registrars-motherwell@northlan.gov.uk
Hamilton (South Lanarkshire)	0303 123 1015	licensing@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Airdrie	01236 758080	registrars-airdrie@northlan.gov.uk
Cumbernauld	01236 632740	registrars-cumbernauld@northlan.gov.uk
Emergency (out of hours)	07985 330371 / 0800 242024	N/A

Cambusnethan Cemetery

Address
384 Kirk Rd, Cambusnethan, Wishaw ML2 8NP

Salah tul Janaza: The Prayer of the Deceased

The janaza prayer is performed as follows:

First Takbeer

The Imam says “Allahu Akbar” aloud to begin the prayer and folds his hands (right over left). Followers should say “Allahu Akbar” silently and fold their hands in the same manner.

Everyone then recites quietly:

Subhana kalla humma wa bihamdika, wa tabarakasmuka, wa ta'ala jadduka, wa la ilaaha ghayruk

“O Allah! All glory is due to You, I praise You, Your name is the Most Blessed, Your Majesty is highly exalted, and there is none worthy of worship but You.”

Note: In the Hanafi madhab, this is considered a dua rather than a formal salah, and only the above is recited at this point.

Second Takbeer

The Imam says “Allahu Akbar” again. In the Hanafi madhab, hands are not raised at this point.

Everyone recites the Durood quietly:

Allahumma salli 'alaa Muhammadin wa 'alaa aali Muhammadin kamaa sallaita 'alaa Ibrahima wa 'alaa aali Ibrahima innaka hameedum majeed. Allahumma baarik 'alaa Muhammadin wa 'alaa aali Muhammadin kamaa baarakta 'alaa Ibrahima wa 'alaa aali Ibrahima innaka hameedum majeed.

“Oh Allah! Shower Your mercy upon Muhammad and the followers of Muhammad, as You showered Your mercy upon Ibrahim and the followers of Ibrahim. Verily You are Praiseworthy and Glorious. Oh Allah! Shower Your blessings upon Muhammad and the followers of Muhammad as You showered Your blessings upon Ibrahim and the followers of Ibrahim. Verily You are Praiseworthy and Glorious.”

Third Takbeer

The Imam says “Allahu Akbar” for the third time. Everyone makes dua for the deceased, for example:

Allahumma-ghfir li-hayyina wa mayyitina, wa shahidina wa gha'ibina, wa sagheerina wa kabeerina, wa thakarina wa unthana. Allahumma man ahyaytahu minna fa-ahyih 'ala-l-islami. Wa man tawaffaytahu minna fa-tawaffahu 'ala-l-imani.

“O Allah, forgive our living and our dead, those present and those absent, our young and our old, our males and our females. O Allah, whom amongst us You keep alive, let such a life be upon Islam. And whom amongst us You take unto Yourself, let such a death be upon faith. O Allah, do not deprive us of his reward and do not let us stray after him.”

Fourth Takbeer

The Imam says “Allahu Akbar” for the fourth time and concludes the prayer with salaam, first to the right, then to the left.