



# Preparing for Urgent Burial: A Guide for Loved Ones.

Co-produced by Saint Francis Hospice  
and Gardens of Peace

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# Arranging urgent burial following the expected death of a loved one

We appreciate that burial as soon as possible is extremely important in the Muslim faith.

There are a number of processes that can be time consuming so this leaflet is to let you know what to expect, and what you can do to help in this process.

## Thinking ahead and planning when someone you love is dying

- ♥ Let your GP know that your loved one is more unwell, and be clear that they are of a faith that requires urgent burial after death.
- ♥ If you are heading towards a weekend or bank holiday, ask the GP what the process would be if your loved one were to die during that time.
- ♥ Identify an appropriate Muslim funeral director so you know who to contact when the time comes.



## The process after death

- Death needs to be verified by a trained healthcare professional – this is often done by the District Nurse, but if they are unable to do this then you should call the GP (or 111 out of hours/weekends). It is important they know that this is a faith death so that they can prioritise.
- Contact the GP as soon as possible to let them know your loved one has died.
- Once verification is done, a doctor who knew your loved one will need to write a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD).
- This MCCD is then sent on urgently to the Medical Examiner (an independent doctor), who will review the medical notes as a priority and countersign the MCCD.
- All deaths not referred to the Coroner must be scrutinised by a Medical Examiner by law.
  - (Note that if the death requires a Coroner's referral there is likely to be a delay to burial. Please speak with your faith leaders for further guidance).
- The Medical Examiner will telephone the next of kin (NOK) to discuss the proposed cause of death and any concerns as soon as possible. You do not need to ring to chase this up as faith deaths are treated as urgent. Within working hours, they are processed as soon as they are received.
- Once the Medical Examiner has spoken with the NOK they will send the MCCD to the Registrar.

## Out of Hours

- There is a limited out of hours service for both Medical Examiner and Registrar services over the weekend, between 9am-12 noon on Saturday and on Sunday. Any deaths outside of 9am-12 noon will be processed first thing the next morning.

## Registering a death

- Once the Registrar has received the MCCD from the Medical Examiner's Office, the death can be registered.
- You will need to book an appointment online. See overleaf for the correct link.

## Further information

### Medical Examiner Office for Barking, Havering and Redbridge:

- 01708 504343
- [bhrhospitals.nhs.uk/registering-a-death/](https://bhrhospitals.nhs.uk/registering-a-death/)
- [bhrut.medicalexamineroffice@nhs.net](mailto:bhrut.medicalexamineroffice@nhs.net)



### Redbridge registrars: Book appointment online

- [redbridge.gov.uk/births-deaths-marriages-civil-partnerships-and-citizenship/death/register-a-death/](https://redbridge.gov.uk/births-deaths-marriages-civil-partnerships-and-citizenship/death/register-a-death/)
- 020 8708 7123 (Mon-Fri) or  
020 8554 5000 (evenings/weekends)



### Havering registrars: Book appointment online

- [haverling.gov.uk/deaths-funerals-cremations/register-death](https://haverling.gov.uk/deaths-funerals-cremations/register-death)
- 01708 433481



### Barking and Dagenham registrars: They will telephone you

- [lbbd.gov.uk/births-deaths-marriages-and-nationality/deaths](https://lbbd.gov.uk/births-deaths-marriages-and-nationality/deaths)
- 020 8270 4744



### Medical Examiner Office for Brentwood:

- [midandsouthessex.ics.nhs.uk/health/medical-examiners-service/](https://midandsouthessex.ics.nhs.uk/health/medical-examiners-service/)
- [mse.basildon.meoffice@nhs.net](mailto:mse.basildon.meoffice@nhs.net)
- 01268 394736 / 593158



## SUPPORT

Muslim Bereavement  
Support Service

[mbss.org.uk](https://mbss.org.uk)

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