



185 Smart Road
Hillsborough
New Plymouth
New Zealand
0800 786 000
nakimuslim@gmail.com
www.nakimuslim.org

Muslim Association of Taranaki Incorporated

MAT FUNERAL GUIDELINES

COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 4

Under Alert level 4 communities or families will not be allowed to carry out the funerals including the transportation of the deceased. All Muslim burial rites **MUST** be performed at and by registered Funeral Directors. There is opportunity for Islamic rites of ghusl and Janazah to be performed under the supervision of the Funeral Directors

In the event of a death (God forbid) during the lockdown period:

1. A family member of the deceased should contact MAT Janaza Focal Points (Br Soheib for males or Sr Saba for females) to notify of death as soon as practicable, or in the case of a community member being terminally ill, please inform MAT as soon prior to the passing if possible so that MAT is aware.
2. MAT will then engage with our agreed upon Funeral Directors to facilitate burial of the deceased in accordance with the regulations issued by the Ministry of Health under the Lockdown. Both Abrahams and Eagars Funeral Homes have been contacted and are able to cater to our needs, both will provide a rough estimate of their service fees for our records.
3. Appointed male and/or female Ghusl/Janaza volunteers will assist in the process as per the guidelines. At present Sr Azidah will lead Ghusal for the females and Br Soheib for males with additional volunteers.

Please take note of the following procedures and guidelines to be followed as provided by/agreed upon by FIANZ and WTG which have been vetted by Ministry of Health and agreed upon by Dr Simon Stables (a Forensic Pathologist):

THREE Male or Female Muslim community workers will be allowed to participate in this process.

- The Funeral Home transfers the deceased from the place of Death to the bathing table in the Funeral Home mortuary
- Muslim Community workers in PPE gear remove the clothing and conduct the Ghusul (bathing)
- Muslim Community workers wrap the washed body in Kafan (white sheets) for burial

- The shrouded body is transferred from the mortuary table to an appropriate surface/location for viewing within the funeral home
- Only Family members from the deceased persons bubble are allowed the viewing
- Family members then leave after the viewing
- The Muslim Community workers pray Janazah over the deceased
- The funeral home transfers the deceased to the cemetery accompanied by the Muslim community workers for burial – ***This is based on what is occurring in Auckland, NPDC is aware of this and will confirm the requirements for who can attend to assist with burial at Cemetery.***
- There will be no embalming involved at all, COVID-19 or not
- Where the deceased is male, only male Muslim workers will be involved in Ghusul
- Where the deceased is female, female Muslim workers will perform Ghusul, then leave for the male Muslim workers to perform the Janazah and burial
- Same procedures will be followed whether the cause of death is COVID-19 or other causes

The following PPE equipment for the Muslim community workers who will be preparing the deceased for burial will be provided or arranged:

1. P2 or N95 masks (or approved alternative)
2. Disposable gloves
3. Eye protection
4. Plastic disposable gowns
5. Gumboots

Costs

In addition to the cost of Grave Plot purchase and preparation by NPDC, the cost of the Funeral Directors services will also be payable.

Please see current NPDC fees and charges for grave plot purchase and preparation of grave site.

4. Fees and charges (effective 1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020)

Plot purchase		Cost
<input type="radio"/>	Adult	\$ 3,623.00
<input type="radio"/>	Child (under 14)	\$ 1,817.00
<input type="radio"/>	Ash plot	\$ 1,165.00
<input type="radio"/>	Returned Serviceperson (in cemeteries where Returned Services sections are provided)	No charge
Interment fees		
<input type="radio"/>	Adult/Returned Serviceperson	\$ 1,948.00
<input type="radio"/>	Child (under 14)	\$ 972.00
<input type="radio"/>	Stillborn	\$ 488.00
<input type="radio"/>	Ash burial	\$ 488.00
Other charges		
<input type="radio"/>	Weekend/public holiday surcharge (only applies to casket burials)	\$ 699.00
		Total \$

Where there are situations of financial hardship in covering the cost of burial the Muslim Association of Taranaki with the help of the Muslim community will endeavor to do its best to assist, by way of collecting donations etc.

What all Muslims Need to Observe with Alert Level 4

- There will be no gatherings what so ever at the home of the deceased, at the mosque, at gatherings for memorial services, at wakes, at processions, at reception gatherings to pass on condolence to the family or at any indoor or outdoor venues. The same applies at the venue where the deceased is prepared for burial as well as the cemetery when burial takes place. Funeral homes may be able to arrange live streaming for those unable to be present.
- Procedures and guidelines are subject to changes as any ministry requirements are changed and will be updated accordingly.
- We are also obliged to follow additional rules and regulations introduced by the cemeteries and any of the medical health service providers.

Remember we are in a lockdown situation and applies to all persons, regardless of who they are, when and where they died, or the cause of death.

As a community we must turn to Allah during difficult times, we will pray individually for the deceased and their families. We can still use phones or video calling to offer moral support, duas and condolences.
