

Muslim Chaplain Services of Virginia

PO Box 13019, Richmond, VA 23225

Islamic Funeral for Incarcerated Muslims

Introduction

In accordance with 32.1-283 of the Code of Virginia, the body of a person, who dies while incarcerated in a correctional facility, is turned over to the state medical examiner. When the medical examiner has completed his report, “the dead body may be claimed by relatives or friends of the deceased person for disposition” (subsection A of 32.1-288).

Subsection C of 32.1-288 provides that; “In the case of a person who has been received into the state corrections system and died prior to his/ her release and whose claimant is financially unable to pay reasonable expenses of disposition, the expenses shall be borne by the county or city where the claimant resides.”

If an inmate wishes to have an Islamic burial, he/ she needs to make arrangements with a relative, friend or other organization in the community to claim his/ her body after death and make funeral and burial arrangements in accordance with his/ her wishes.

In case of your death, and if your survivor(s) chose so, the Muslim Chaplain Services of Virginia (MCSVA) will coordinate with a funeral home of your choice (in Richmond are only) to pickup your body from the Medical Examiners office. However, you or your survivors must make financial arrangements with the funeral home of your choice in advance.

After your survivors inform the funeral home of your death, and if your “WILL” dictates that MCSVA and Joseph Jenkins Funeral home should handle your body, Jenkins Funeral Home will get in touch with MCSVA. Depending upon the location of the body, they will transport the body from the Medical Examiner’s office to the funeral home. After the body arrives at the funeral home, the Muslims will wash & shroud the body and perform Janazah (Islamic funeral prayer) for the deceased.

Without any delay the body will be transported to the Al-Barzakh symmetry, a Muslim symmetry and will be buried according to the Muslim Shariah Law.

Process

Step-1: Prepare your “WILL” document, have it signed by your relative/ survivor and have it notarized. For the process to work properly it is important to have the commitment of your relative or friend to honor your wishes as prescribed in your “Will”.

Step-2: Prepare 3 copies of the “WILL” document. Give one copy to your heirs, keep one copy for your records, and send one copy to MCSVA PO Box 13019 Richmond, VA 23225.

Step-3: Make arrangements with your survivors to pay for the funeral costs.

FUNERAL COSTS

Note: To make your funeral process smooth and easy, you are advised to make arrangements in advance to cover the costs of your funeral. You are advised to talk to your relatives and/or friends who will be involved in your funeral arrangements about the process and how the costs should be covered. Remember, if the claimant of your body is financially unable to pay reasonable expenses, they can work with the county / city, where they reside to pay for the funeral costs. However, the body will have to be buried in the City/ County of claimant's residence.

Following costs are associated with the funeral:

1. Funeral Home Cost: Funeral home cost is the major portion of any funeral. It includes the transportation of the body from facility or Examiners Office to the funeral home and the transportation of the body to the gravesite. If the family chooses to have the funeral prayer performed at the Islamic Center for a bigger congregation, there will be additional cost of transportation. This cost is hard to predict due to the uncertainty of the location when the death will occur.
2. Washing and Shrouding: This includes cost of the cloth, and washing supplies.
3. Cost of Gravesite (2014 estimate): Currently the cost is \$750.

Medical Examiner Office Locations

The following information was taken on 5/8/14 from the Virginia Department of Health Website www.vdh.state.va.us/medExam/.

There are four district offices in Virginia's medical examiner system. When an autopsy is required, it is done in one of these offices. Each office is staffed by board certified forensic pathologists, death investigators, administrative and morgue personnel who treat each case with respect and reverence.

Central District

400 East Jackson Street,
Richmond, VA. 23219-3694
Tel: (804) 786-3174; Fax (804) 371-8595

Northern District

10850 Pyramid Place, Suite 121
Manassas, VA 20110
Tel: (703) 530-2600 Fax (703) 530-0510

Tidewater District

830 Southampton Ave., Suite 100
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
Tel: (757) 683-8366 Fax (757) 683-2589

Western District

6600 Northside High School Road
Roanoke, VA. 24019
Tel: (540) 561-6615 Fax (540) 561-6619

FUNERAL HOME CONTACT INFORMATION

- Joseph Jenkins Jr. Funeral Home: (804) 358-9177
2011 Grayland Ave, Richmond, VA 23220
Website: www.jenkinsjr.com

The Joseph Jenkins Funeral Home will get in touch with Islamic Funeral Services of Virginia as well as MCSVA. Area Muslims will arrange for washing and shrouding the body, make arrangements for funeral and burial in the Al-Barzakh Cemetery located in Doswell, Virginia.

- Bennett Funeral Home: (804) 359-4481
3215 Cutshaw Ave, Richmond, VA 23221
Website: www.bennettfuneralhomes.com

The Bennett Funeral Home will get in touch with Islamic Center of Virginia (ICVA). ICVA will arrange for washing and shrouding the body and make arrangements for its funeral and burial in The Crescent Memorial Gardens located at 3411 Beech Wood Avenue, Colonial Heights, VA 23834.

MUSLIM ORGANIZATIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

- Muslim Chaplain Services of Virginia
PO Box 13019, Richmond, VA 23225
- Islamic Center of Virginia
1241 Buford Road, Richmond VA 23235
804-320-7333
- ISLAMIC FUNERAL SERVICES OF VIRGINIA,
INC. 723 West Clay Street Richmond, Virginia 23220-3113 Phone: (804) 644-6022 Email:
ifsva@isgr.org

Narrated Abdullah bin Umar: Allah's Apostle said, "It is not permissible for any Muslim who has something to will to stay for two nights **without having his last will and testament written and kept ready with him.**" (*Sahih Al-Bukhari*, Volume 4, Book 51, No. 1)