

If you have no Muslim family

If your family is not Muslim, they may not know what you would want, and by law they may be the ones who decide. A little preparation makes sure you are washed, prayed over and buried as a Muslim.

- 1** Tell your masjid, and keep their number with you
Let your imam or the funeral committee know your situation. Many committees will step in for a Muslim with no Muslim relatives, and some burial funds exist for exactly this.
- 2** Write your wishes down, and sign them
Families usually follow clear written wishes. Write your janazah wishes and give a copy to your family and to your masjid.
Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 2738
- 3** Name someone to carry them out
In many states the closest relative has the legal right to decide about burial unless you have named someone else in a signed document. An estate attorney can tell you how to name a Muslim friend or your masjid to carry out your funeral wishes where you live.
- 4** Talk to your family while you can
Explain what a Muslim burial involves: a quick burial, a simple washing and shroud, no cremation. Most families honour wishes they have heard in person.

YOUR ESTATE

Muslims and non-Muslims do not inherit from one another by the Islamic shares; many scholars allow a bequest of up to a third to non-Muslim relatives, who do not inherit. Ask a scholar. Ask a scholar and an attorney together. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 6764*

FIND YOUR MASJID

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