

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّآ إِلَيْهِ رَٰجِعُونَ

Innā lillāhi wa innā ilayhi rājiʿūn. Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return. Qurʾān, al-Baqarah 2:156

We are sorry. Here is what happens next.

As soon as you can, call your masjid's funeral committee.

They will arrange the washing, the shroud, the prayer and the burial, and tell you which funeral company to use.

You do not have to do this alone, or all at once. Your masjid has done this many times. Follow the steps in order, and open each one when you reach it.

New This guide is new and has not yet been reviewed by people in Finland. If something here is wrong or out of date where you live, please tell us at hello@lifeistemporary.com.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS IN FINLAND

Death certificate and registration	A doctor establishes the cause of death and gives the burial permit; after a death at home or outdoors, call 112. Hospitals and care homes report the death to the Population Information System kept by DVV, so the family does not register it. To deal with the estate, order the deceased's family-relations certificate (sukuselvitys) straight away, from DVV or the church register, as it takes weeks. Suomi.fi, Alun toimet; Kela, Muistettavia asioita, kun omaisesi kuolee
Police and forensic autopsy	When a death was not caused by an illness a doctor was treating, or was sudden, an accident, a suicide or a possible crime, the police decide on a forensic cause-of-death inquiry. A relative cannot forbid a forensic autopsy, and it costs the family nothing. A medical autopsy needs the consent of the nearest relative; only if consent cannot be obtained without delay can the national health institute (THL) allow it. The doctor must give the burial permit as soon as the examinations of the body are done. Suomi.fi, Alun toimet; Laki kuolemansyyn selvittämisestä (459/1973)
Burial permit, timing and burial abroad	The law says the body must be buried or cremated without undue delay; it sets no fixed number of days. Fix the burial time once the burial permit is given. In Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa it usually takes 3 working days to get a burial time, or 5 to 7 after a weekend or public holiday death. Hautaustoimilaki (457/2003); Helsingin, Espoon ja Vantaan seurakunnat, Muslimien hautaus
Burial permit, timing and burial abroad	A body may leave Finland once a doctor has given the burial permit; transport in a coffin needs a transport permit (ruumiinkuljetuslupa), which the funeral company usually requests. Cause-of-death documents are in Finnish or Swedish, so have them translated if needed. The destination country's embassy advises on its conditions. Suomi.fi, Jos ulkomaan kansalainen kuolee Suomessa
Burial and graves	Public cemeteries are run by the Evangelical Lutheran parishes, which must give a grave to residents of their

	area, on request in a separate non-denominational area. In Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa Muslims have their own areas (Honkanummi, Kellonummi and Ruskeasanta), with residence rules. These are always coffin graves, dug east to west with the face towards Mecca, and are leased for 20 to 25 years. Helsingin, Espoon ja Vantaan seurakunnat, Muslimien hautaus; Hautaustoimilaki (457/2003)
Perunkirjoitus and the estate	The estate inventory (perunkirjoitus) must be held within 3 months of the death if the deceased lived permanently in Finland, and the inventory sent to the Tax Administration within one month of it. Children inherit equally and half of each child's legal share is reserved (lakiosa); without a will, a spouse inherits only if there are no descendants. Ask a lawyer how the heirs can agree to follow the Islamic shares. Suomi.fi, Perunkirjoitus; Perintökaari (40/1965), 2 luku 1 §, 3 luku 1 §, 7 luku 1 §
Help with funeral costs	Kela does not pay a funeral grant. Ask the deceased's employer, insurers or trade union; compulsory accident, traffic and patient insurance can also pay one. If the deceased had no means, relatives can apply to the wellbeing services county for help as supplementary social assistance. Kela, Muistettavia asioita, kun omaisesi kuolee; Suomi.fi, Hautajaiset

From official sources, checked October 2026. Laws change; your funeral company and a lawyer can confirm them.

WHERE YOU ARE

Finland has one national law for burial and estates, and this guide describes that national framework. Public cemeteries are run by the Evangelical Lutheran parishes, which must also give non-members a grave, so Muslim areas and residence rules differ by place. Rules in Åland have not been checked.

Have the death confirmed

1

In the first hour

A doctor establishes the cause of death and gives the burial permit (hautauslupa). If someone dies at home, outdoors or anywhere outside a health-care unit, call 112. Burial needs the doctor's burial permit; the final cause-of-death results can come months later, after the burial.

- [ ] In a hospital or care home, the staff and doctor take care of it
- [ ] At home or outdoors, call 112
- [ ] If the person was in end-of-life care at home, follow the care team's instructions
- [ ] Tell the staff early that the family needs a quick burial for religious reasons

WHO STARTS IT

A doctor starts the cause-of-death inquiry when the person died in a care facility. The police start it when they died at home, outdoors or in a public place. Suomi.fi, Läheisen kuolema: Alun toimet, kun ihminen kuolee (päivitetty 2.10.2026)

FREE OF CHARGE

The death certificate, the burial permit and the cause-of-death documents are free. Laki kuolemansyyn selvittämisestä (459/1973)

and

Close the eyes, cover the body, make duʿā

In the first hour · at the same time as the step above

Gently and without hurry. Those present can do this while the calls are made.

- [ ] Close the eyes and the mouth
- [ ] Straighten the arms and legs
- [ ] Cover the body with a clean sheet
- [ ] Pray for them, and say only good

EVIDENCE

The Prophet ﷺ closed the eyes of Abū Salamah and prayed for him. Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 920

2

Call the mosque's funeral service

In the first few hours

Many mosques and Muslim associations help with the washing, the shroud, the prayer and the burial, and know which funeral company (hautaustoimisto) to use.

- [ ] Call the mosque's funeral service or the imam
- [ ] Tell them where the body is and who the next of kin is
- [ ] Agree a time for the ghusl and the janazah prayer

NO NUMBER?
Call the nearest large mosque. They will know who to call.

3

Ask whether the police are involved PAPERWORK

If the death was sudden or violent

When a death was not caused by an illness that a doctor was treating, or was sudden, an accident, a suicide or a possible crime, the police decide on a forensic cause-of-death inquiry. The burial permit then comes from the forensic doctor.

- [ ] Ask the police whether there will be a forensic autopsy
- [ ] Ask the police and the forensic doctor, early, for the burial permit as soon as possible for religious reasons
- [ ] You can start planning the funeral while the inquiry goes on

A FORENSIC AUTOPSY
The police order it, and a relative cannot forbid it. It costs the family nothing. Suomi.fi, Läheisen kuolema: Alun toimet – ruumiinavaus (päivitetty 2.10.2026)

RELEASE
If further tests delay the final result, the doctor must give the burial permit as soon as the examinations of the body are done. Suomi.fi, Läheisen kuolema: Alun toimet – ruumiinavaus (päivitetty 2.10.2026)

A HOSPITAL AUTOPSY
An autopsy only for medical reasons needs the consent of the nearest relative or someone close to the deceased. Only if consent cannot be obtained without delay can the national health institute (THL) allow it. Tell the doctor straight away if the family does not consent.
Laki kuolemansyyn selvittämisestä (459/1973) ; Suomi.fi, Läheisen kuolema: Alun toimet – ruumiinavaus (päivitetty 2.10.2026)

4

The death is registered automatically PAPERWORK

In the first days

Hospitals and care homes send the death to the Population Information System kept by the Digital and Population Data Services Agency (DVV). From there Kela and pension providers, among others, are told. You do not register it yourself.

- [ ] If the death was in a hospital or care home, ask the staff to confirm it has been reported
- [ ] If the person was on a Kela pension or benefit, call Kela soon
- [ ] Order the family-relations certificate (sukuselvitys) straight away: it takes weeks

WHO REPORTS
Hospitals and care homes pass the death to DVV's register. If a death happens suddenly outside a hospital or care home, tell the police.
Kela, Muistettavia asioita, kun omaisesi kuolee (muistilista, luettu 10.10.2026)

THE BURIAL PERMIT
The hospital sends the burial permit to the funeral company you name, or straight to the parish office of the deceased's home town. Fix the burial time only once the permit has been given.
Suomi.fi, Läheisen kuolema: Alun toimet, kun ihminen kuolee (päivitetty 2.10.2026)

5

Choose the funeral company and the grave PAPERWORK

Within the first day

You can buy a funeral company's (hautaustoimisto) services in full, in part, or arrange things yourselves. Public cemeteries are run by the Evangelical Lutheran parishes, and everyone has a right to a grave in the parish cemetery of their home town, members or not. The necessary costs are the coffin, transport and the grave.

- [ ] Ask the funeral company in advance whether the mosque's team or the family may wash the body
- [ ] Ask the parish cemetery office for a grave in the Muslim area
- [ ] Ask whether the Muslim area is only for residents of that town

A COFFIN

In Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa, graves for Muslims are always coffin graves: the deceased is buried in a coffin. We found no official page allowing burial in the shroud alone. Helsingin, Espoon ja Vantaan seurakunnat, Muslimien hautaus (esite, luettu 10.10.2026)

MUSLIM AREAS

A parish must, on request, give a grave in a separate non-denominational area. In the Helsinki area Muslims have their own areas: Honkanummi (Helsinki residents only), Kellonummi (Espoo residents and people from elsewhere) and Ruskeasanta (Vantaa residents only). Graves run east to west, with the face turned towards Mecca, and relatives may fill the grave themselves. Hautaustoimilaki (457/2003) ; Helsingin, Espoon ja Vantaan seurakunnat, Muslimien hautaus (esite, luettu 10.10.2026)

HOW LONG A GRAVE LASTS

In the Helsinki area a grave is leased for 20 to 25 years, depending on the cemetery. Ask the cemetery whether and how it can be extended. Helsingin, Espoon ja Vantaan seurakunnat, Muslimien hautaus (esite, luettu 10.10.2026)

THE WASHING

Relatives may dress the deceased themselves if they wish. We have not confirmed the rules on washing the body at a funeral home; ask the funeral company in advance. Suomi.fi, Läheisen kuolema: Hautajaiset (luettu 10.10.2026)

IF RELATIVES DISAGREE

The person the deceased named, or the spouse or cohabiting partner and the closest heirs, arrange the funeral. If they cannot agree on the manner or place, the district court decides. Hautaustoimilaki (457/2003), 23 §

and

Wash and shroud the body

Within the first day · at the same time as the step above

Done by trained Muslims of the same sex, or by the spouse. The funeral service usually provides the cloth.

- [ ] Confirm who will wash
- [ ] Confirm the kafan is ready

How the washing and shroud are done ›

SPOUSES

A wife may wash her husband: Ibn al-Mundhir reports consensus. Most scholars allow a husband to wash his wife, and the Prophet ﷺ told ʿĀʾishah that if she died before him he would wash her (Ibn Mājah 1465); the Ḥanafī school does not allow the husband to. Ibn Qudāmah, al-Mughnī (Ḥanbalī, with the other schools), 2:390 ; Ibn ʿĀbidīn, Radd al-Muḥtār (Ḥanafī), 2:198–199

6

The janazah prayer and the burial

As soon as possible

The prayer is often held after one of the daily prayers, and the burial follows straight after.

- [ ] Tell family and community the time of the prayer
- [ ] Confirm the grave in the Muslim area
- [ ] Book the burial time with the parish cemetery office once the burial permit is given

How to pray the janazah prayer ›

HASTE
The Prophet ﷺ told us to hurry with the funeral. Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 1315

THE LAW
The body must be buried or cremated without undue delay, and the deceased's beliefs and wishes must be respected. The law sets no fixed number of days. Hautaustoimilaki (457/2003)

GETTING A TIME
In Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa it usually takes 3 working days to get a burial time, or 5 to 7 working days if the death was at a weekend or on a public holiday. Helsingin, Espoon ja Vantaan seurakunnat, Muslimien hautaus (esite, luettu 10.10.2026)

and

If the burial will be abroad PAPERWORK

Before the coffin is closed · at the same time as the step above

Some families bury their dead in another country. Ask the funeral company which paperwork it will handle. The estate usually pays, or the family if there is no money in it. Ask the funeral company what it costs and who signs before you agree, and check any insurance.

- [ ] Tell the funeral company early that the burial will be abroad
- [ ] Call the embassy or consulate of the country early: it advises on transport and burial

PERMITS
The body may leave Finland once a doctor has given the burial permit. Transport in a coffin needs a transport permit (ruumiinkuljetuslupa); the funeral company usually asks for it. Suomi.fi, Läheisen kuolema: Jos ulkomaan kansalainen kuolee Suomessa (luettu 10.10.2026)

- [ ] Ask the consulate whether it requires embalming or a sealed zinc coffin
- [ ] Have the documents translated if needed

LANGUAGE
Cause-of-death documents are issued in Finnish or Swedish. You must have them translated yourself if another language is needed. Suomi.fi, Läheisen kuolema: Jos ulkomaan kansalainen kuolee Suomessa (luettu 10.10.2026)

THE CONSULATE
The embassy of the country advises on transport and burial arrangements. Suomi.fi, Läheisen kuolema: Jos ulkomaan kansalainen kuolee Suomessa (luettu 10.10.2026)

7 Get the family-relations certificate PAPERWORK

In the first week

To deal with the estate you mainly need the deceased's family-relations certificate (sukuselvitys). The doctor's death certificate is not usually needed for authorities, banks, insurance or the funeral.

- [ ] Order it from DVV if the deceased was never a member of the Lutheran or Orthodox church
- [ ] If they were a member for only part of their life, order it from both the parish and DVV
- [ ] Order it straight away: it takes weeks
- [ ] For a copy of the death certificate, ask the care unit that treated them; after a forensic autopsy, ask the police

WHO NEEDS IT
It is needed for the estate inventory, and may be needed for banks, insurance, ending a lease or closing social media accounts. Suomi.fi, Läheisen kuolema: Mitä asiakirjoja tarvitsen asioiden hoitamiseen? (päivitetty 2.10.2026)

8

Pay the funeral costs and list every debt

In the first weeks

The funeral is paid from the estate first, then the debts. Nothing is inherited until both are settled.

- [ ] Pay the funeral costs from the estate
- [ ] Keep every receipt for the estate inventory
- [ ] List loans, bills and money owed to family
- [ ] Ask a scholar about any unpaid zakat

THE ORDER

Funeral, then debts, then bequests from a third, then the heirs. al-Sirājiyyah (al-Sajāwandī), opening chapter

NO KELA GRANT

Kela does not pay a funeral grant. Ask the deceased's employer, insurers or trade union. Compulsory accident, traffic and patient insurance can also pay one. Kela, Muistettavia asioita, kun omaisesi kuolee (muistilista, luettu 10.10.2026) ; Suomi.fi, Läheisen kuolema: Hautajaiset (luettu 10.10.2026)

IF THERE IS NO MONEY

If the deceased had no means, relatives can apply to the wellbeing services county (hyvinvointialue) for help with the funeral, as supplementary social assistance. Some counties first want an application to Kela for basic social assistance. Kela, Muistettavia asioita, kun omaisesi kuolee (muistilista, luettu 10.10.2026) ; Suomi.fi, Läheisen kuolema: Hautajaiset (luettu 10.10.2026)

and

Find the will PAPERWORK

In the first weeks · at the same time as the step above

Find any will and make it known to all the heirs.

- [ ] Check papers at home, email, and with any lawyer or bank
- [ ] Give a copy to every heir
- [ ] Secure the house and car, and keep the phone line active for sign-in codes

TELL THE HEIRS
Kela's checklist for families says to make any will known to all the heirs. Kela, Muistettavia asioita, kun omaisesi kuolee (muistilista, luettu 10.10.2026)

A VALID WILL
A Finnish will is made in writing. The testator signs it, or confirms their signature, while both witnesses are present at the same time, and they sign it knowing it is a will. Perintökaari (40/1965), 10 luku 1 ja 3 §

9

Settle and divide the estate PAPERWORK

In the months after

Finnish law reserves part of every estate to the children, in equal shares for sons and daughters. Dividing by the Islamic shares therefore often needs the heirs to agree. Ask a lawyer early how this can be done.

- [ ] Hold the estate inventory (perunkirjoitus) within 3 months
- [ ] Send the inventory to the Tax Administration within one month of it
- [ ] Pay any bequest, up to one third, to people who are not heirs
- [ ] Divide the rest by the fixed shares

See how the estate divides ›

ONE THIRD
A bequest is limited to a third, and an heir cannot receive one. Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 2742 ; Sunan Abī Dāwūd 2870 (ḥasan ṣaḥīḥ)

THE ESTATE INVENTORY
It is compulsory if the deceased lived permanently in Finland, whatever their age, nationality or wealth. The person reporting the estate and two trustees must be present. Ask the Tax Administration for more time before 3 months have passed. Legal aid offices can help if your income is low. Suomi.fi, Läheisen kuolema: Perunkirjoitus (luettu 10.10.2026)

THE CHILDREN'S SHARE

Children inherit equally. Each child's reserved share (lakiosa) is half of their legal share, whatever the will says.
Perintökaari (40/1965), 2 luku 1 § ja 3 luku 1 § ; Perintökaari (40/1965), 7 luku 1 §

HUSBAND OR WIFE

Without a will, a spouse inherits the estate only if the deceased left no descendants. If there are descendants, they inherit. A will can change this within the children's reserved share. Ask a lawyer about the spouse's other rights.
Perintökaari (40/1965), 2 luku 1 § ja 3 luku 1 § ; Perintökaari (40/1965), 7 luku 1 §

10

Look after the family

Four months and ten days

A woman keeps the prescribed mourning (iḥdād: setting aside adornment and perfume) for no more than three days for any death, except for her husband: then four months and ten days, the length of her ʿiddah, or until she gives birth if she is pregnant.

- [ ] Bring food and help with the household
- [ ] Help the widow with errands and appointments
- [ ] Make duʿā for the one who has died

What to say and do when you visit ›

EVIDENCE
A woman who believes in Allah and the Last Day does not mourn beyond three days, except for a husband: four months and ten days. A pregnant widow's term ends with the birth. Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 1280 ; Qurʾān, al-Ṭalāq 65:4

FOOD
Prepare food for the family, for what has happened has occupied them. Sunan Abī Dāwūd 3132 (ḥasan, al-Albānī)

ʿIDDAH DATES
Work out when four months and ten days have passed, by the Hijri and the Western calendar. Open ↗

11

Write your own Islamic will

For those left behind

Without a valid will, Finnish law decides who inherits, not the fixed shares, and sons and daughters inherit equally. An Islamic will in Finland is an ordinary Finnish will that directs the estate by the shares, within the part the law leaves free.

- [ ] Write it down and sign it with two witnesses present at the same time
- [ ] Do not use your spouse or close relatives as witnesses
- [ ] Keep it where your family will find it

VALID WILL
It must be in writing. Two witnesses, present together, sign after you sign or confirm your signature, and must know it is a will. You need not show them what it says. Your spouse, your parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren, in-laws, brothers and sisters and their spouses cannot be witnesses. Perintökaari (40/1965), 10 luku 1 ja 3 §

- [ ] Ask a lawyer how the children's reserved share affects the Islamic shares

Work out the Islamic shares to take to a lawyer ›

THE RESERVED SHARE

Half of each child's legal share is reserved for them. Perintökaari (40/1965), 7 luku 1 §

General guidance, not a fatwa or legal advice. Finnish law on burial and estates is national, but public cemeteries are run by the local Lutheran parishes, so Muslim areas and residence rules differ from place to place; your funeral company and a lawyer can confirm them.

Last reviewed October 2026. Something wrong? Tell us