

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 director 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 Ireland. If something here is wrong or out of date where you live, please tell us at hello@lifeistemporary.com.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS IN IRELAND

Registering the death

Take the Death Notification Form from the doctor to any civil registration office, with photo ID. Registration is free. Register within 3 months of the death; the law's outer limit is 12 months, and after that you must phone the civil registration service. If there is a coroner's post-mortem or inquest, the coroner sends a certificate, the death is registered, and you collect the certificate. Citizens Information, Registering a death (edited 24 October 2023); gov.ie, Register a death in Ireland (updated 29 June 2026); HSE, Register a death

The coroner and post-mortems

A coroner investigates sudden, violent or unexplained deaths and does not need the family's permission for a post-mortem. The body is normally released straight after it, even if an inquest will follow. Tell the coroner's office early that the family needs a quick burial, and say before the post-mortem if you want tissue samples returned for burial. A hospital post-mortem outside the coroner's process needs the next of kin's permission. Citizens Information, Post-mortem examinations; When someone dies unexpectedly (edited 18 August 2026); Coroners Act 1962, s. 33

Release, timing and repatriation

We found no national minimum or maximum time for burial, so ask the cemetery the earliest time it can bury. To bury abroad, the coroner where the body lies must be told in every case. If satisfied about the cause of death, and with no reason to keep the body, the coroner can give the certificate that lets the body leave. The coffin must be lined with zinc or lead and sealed, and the Irish Government does not help with the cost. Citizens Information, Sending a body from Ireland (edited 11 August 2026); Coroners Act 1962, s. 48

Burial and graves

Burial grounds are run by local authorities under their own bye-laws. A coffin is the general rule, but since 2013 burial without a coffin may be permitted in an area of a burial ground set aside only for that, unless the health authority directs otherwise. Confirm with the cemetery whether it has such an area. Newcastle burial ground in South Dublin has a Muslim section, where more plots were being built

	in 2025. S.I. No. 144 of 2013; Citizens Information, Burials and burial grounds (edited 11 April 2023); South Dublin County Council, reply to Q17, 8 September 2025
Probate and the estate	The executor takes out probate, or an administrator takes out letters of administration if there is no will, through a solicitor or by a personal application. Even with a will, a husband or wife has a legal right to one third of the estate with children, or one half without, so following the Islamic shares exactly often needs the family to agree. A child can apply to court within 6 months of the grant. Citizens Information, What happens to a deceased person's estate? (edited 15 April 2024); Dealing with a deceased person's estate (edited 30 September 2026)
Small estates	There is no fixed small-estate limit on the pages we read. If the amount in a bank account is small, the bank may release it to the personal representative or next of kin without probate, and a joint account with a spouse can usually pass to the survivor; the bank needs the death certificate, so ask what else it needs. Many banks can also help pay funeral costs from the deceased's account. Citizens Information, Access to money after a death (edited 28 February 2024)
Bereavement payments and help with costs	Tell the Department of Social Protection within the first few days if the deceased was getting a payment. A widow, widower, civil partner or cohabitant with dependent children may get the one-off Bereaved Parent Grant of €8,000. On a low income, a means-tested Additional Needs Payment can help with the funeral. Citizens Information, Benefits and entitlements following a death (edited 7 August 2025); Bereaved Parent Grant (edited 19 September 2025); Funeral arrangements and costs (edited 5 October 2026)

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

WHERE YOU ARE

Ireland has one national law for registering a death, the coroner and estates, and this guide describes that national framework. Burial grounds are run by local authorities, and each makes its own bye-laws, so ask the cemetery about graves, Muslim sections and shroud-only burial. This guide covers the Republic of Ireland; Northern Ireland is in the UK guide.

1

Have the death confirmed

In the first hour

The death has to be confirmed, and the doctor who attended the person gives the family a Death Notification Form, which states the cause of death. You need it to register the death.

- [ ] In a hospital or nursing home, ask the staff: they give the form to the family
- [ ] At home, call the doctor who looked after the person
- [ ] If the death was sudden, violent or unexplained, call the Gardaí on 112 or 999
- [ ] Tell the staff early that the family needs a quick burial for religious reasons

WHO SIGNS

The doctor who attended the person. A doctor cannot give the form if they do not know the cause of death, or did not see the person in the month before the death. They must then tell the coroner. Citizens Information, Registering a death (page edited 24 October 2023; read 10 October 2026) ; Citizens Information, When someone dies (page edited 25 May 2026; read 10 October 2026)

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

EVIDENCE

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

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

2

Call the mosque's funeral service

In the first few hours

Many mosques and Muslim organisations help with the washing, the shroud, the prayer and the burial, and know which funeral director 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

IN DUBLIN

The Islamic Foundation of Ireland arranges the washing, shroud, prayer and burial in the Muslim section of Newcastle cemetery. It charges nothing for its own help, but other services have costs. Phone (01) 453 3242, Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm. Islamic Foundation of Ireland, Funeral Arrangements and Burial (its own service; read 10 October 2026)

NO NUMBER?

Call the nearest large mosque. They will know who to call.

3

Ask whether the coroner is involved PAPERWORK

If the death was sudden or violent

A coroner investigates sudden, violent or unexplained deaths. The coroner may order a post-mortem, and there can be no funeral until the body is released. The Gardaí often help the coroner. This does not mean the death is suspicious.

- [ ] Ask the hospital or the Gardaí whether the death has gone to the coroner
- [ ] Tell the coroner's office early, in writing, that the family needs a quick burial for religious reasons
- [ ] Do not fix the funeral time until you know when the body will be released
- [ ] Say before the post-mortem if you want any tissue samples returned for burial
- [ ] Ask the coroner's office for an Interim Certificate of the Fact of Death for the bank

WHEN IT GOES TO THE CORONER

Among other cases: the doctor had not seen the person in the month before, an accident, an overdose, a suicide or suspected crime, a death in a nursing home, or a death in State custody. Citizens Information, Coroners (page edited 14 March 2024; read 10 October 2026)

A CORONER'S POST-MORTEM

The coroner does not need the family's permission. The coroner must make sure, where practicable, that a family member is told about it. We found no rule that lets a family refuse it on religious grounds. Citizens Information, Post-mortem examinations (page edited 17 June 2025; read 10 October 2026) ; Coroners Act 1962, s. 33(3) (inserted by the Coroners (Amendment) Act 2019), revised text, Law Reform Commission

RELEASE

A post-mortem normally takes place within a few days, and the body is normally released straight after it. Even if there will be an inquest, burial is usually allowed once the post-mortem is done. A criminal investigation can delay it. Citizens Information, When someone dies unexpectedly (page edited 18 August 2026; read 10 October 2026) ; Citizens Information, Post-mortem examinations (page edited 17 June 2025; read 10 October 2026)

TISSUE SAMPLES

Samples are normally disposed of by the hospital about four months later. You can ask for them to be returned to you for burial. Say so when the post-mortem is arranged. Citizens Information, Post-mortem examinations (page edited 17 June 2025; read 10 October 2026)

A HOSPITAL POST-MORTEM

A post-mortem a doctor asks for, outside the coroner's process, needs the next of kin's permission. You can say no. Citizens Information, Post-mortem examinations (page edited 17 June 2025; read 10 October 2026)

4

Register the death PAPERWORK

Within 3 months

Take the Death Notification Form to any civil registration office. It does not have to be in the area where the death happened. Normally a close relative registers the death.

- [ ] The doctor fills in Part 1 of the Death Notification Form; you fill in Part 2 before the appointment
- [ ] Take photo ID
- [ ] Registration is free
- [ ] If there is a coroner's post-mortem or inquest, you do not register: the coroner sends a certificate and the death is registered

THE TIME LIMIT

Register within 3 months of the death. If you are later than that, still register: the law's outer limit is 12 months, and after 12 months you must phone the civil registration service for advice. gov.ie, Department of Social Protection, Register a death in Ireland (last updated 29 June 2026) ; HSE, Register a death (read 10 October 2026)

WHO CAN REGISTER

Usually a close relative. If none is available, someone else who knows the details can, such as the person who arranged the funeral. Citizens Information, Registering a death (page edited 24 October 2023; read 10 October 2026) ; Citizens Information, When someone dies (page edited 25 May 2026; read 10 October 2026)

AFTER A CORONER'S POST-MORTEM

The coroner sends a certificate to the civil registration service, which registers the death. You still collect the death certificate. HSE, Register a death (read 10 October 2026) ; gov.ie, Department of Social Protection, Register a death in Ireland (last updated 29 June 2026)

5

Choose the funeral director and the grave PAPERWORK

Within the first day

A funeral director can deal with most of the funeral, and many can buy the grave for you. Burial grounds are run by the local authority, and each one makes its own bye-laws.

- [ ] Ask the funeral director for the full costs before you agree
- [ ] Ask in advance whether the mosque's team or the family may wash the body at the funeral home
- [ ] Ask for no embalming: it is not strictly necessary for a quick funeral
- [ ] Ask the local authority whether the cemetery has a Muslim section, and whether it has an area for burial without a coffin

A COFFIN

The general rule is a coffin for every burial. Since 2013, burial without a coffin is allowed in an area of a burial ground set aside only for that, unless the health authority directs otherwise. The wrappings then count as the coffin. Ask the cemetery whether it has such an area. Burial Ground (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 144 of 2013), new Rule V, Irish Statute Book ; Citizens Information, Burials and burial grounds (page edited 11 April 2023; read 10 October 2026)

MUSLIM SECTIONS

Newcastle burial ground in South Dublin has a Muslim section, and South Dublin County Council was building 132 more plots there in 2025. For other areas, ask the local authority. South Dublin County Council, reply to question no. 17, council meeting of 8 September 2025 ; Islamic Foundation of Ireland, Funeral Arrangements and Burial (its own service; read 10 October 2026)

GRAVES
Prices vary. Many burial grounds are full, and some limit buying a plot in advance. Citizens Information, Burials and burial grounds (page edited 11 April 2023; read 10 October 2026)

THE WASHING
We have not confirmed the rules on the family or a mosque team washing the body in a funeral home. Ask the funeral director in advance.

IF RELATIVES DISAGREE
The personal representatives decide: the executors if there is a will, or the administrators if there is not. Citizens Information, Funeral arrangements and costs (page edited 5 October 2026; read 10 October 2026)

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 a Muslim cemetery or Muslim section
- [ ] Ask the cemetery the earliest time it can bury, including at weekends
- [ ] Ask whether burial in the shroud alone is allowed in that cemetery

How to pray the janazah prayer ›

HASTE

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

THE LAW

We found no national minimum or maximum time between death and burial. Opening hours and weekend burials are set by each cemetery, so ask the funeral director or the local authority.

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. A funeral director can help with the formalities. 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. Check any insurance too.

- [ ] Tell the funeral director early that the burial will be abroad
- [ ] The coroner must be told in every case, even after a natural death
- [ ] Call the embassy of the country early: it sets its own documents and conditions

THE CORONER

Contact the coroner where the body lies. If the coroner is satisfied about the cause of death, and there is no reason to keep the body in Ireland, the coroner can give a certificate, usually to the funeral director, that allows the body to leave. Citizens Information, Sending a body from Ireland for burial or cremation abroad (page edited 11 August 2026; read 10 October 2026) ; Coroners Act 1962, s. 48 (removal of body outside the State), revised text, Law Reform Commission

- [ ] Ask the embassy whether embalming can be avoided for religious reasons
- [ ] Check travel insurance and private medical cover

DOCUMENTS

The coroner's removal order or non-infectious note, an embalming certificate, the passport or ID of the deceased, the funeral director's declaration and the embassy permit. Citizens Information, Sending a body from Ireland for burial or cremation abroad (page edited 11 August 2026; read 10 October 2026)

THE COFFIN

A coffin crossing a border must be lined with zinc or lead and sealed. Citizens Information, Sending a body from Ireland for burial or cremation abroad (page edited 11 August 2026; read 10 October 2026)

COST

The Irish Government does not help with the cost of repatriation. Citizens Information, Sending a body from Ireland for burial or cremation abroad (page edited 11 August 2026; read 10 October 2026)

7 Get copies of the death certificate PAPERWORK

In the first weeks

Ask each bank, insurer and pension provider whether it needs a death certificate.

- [ ] Ask for copies when you register the death
- [ ] Later, ask any civil registration office, or apply online, by email or by phone

COST

€20 for a full standard certificate. You do not need one for social welfare: the Department of Social Protection sees the registration. Citizens Information, Registering a death (page edited 24 October 2023; read 10 October 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
- [ ] Ask the bank whether it can pay the funeral bill from the deceased's account
- [ ] 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

FROM THE BANK

Many banks can help pay funeral costs from the deceased's account. A joint account with a husband or wife can usually be moved into the survivor's name. You need the death certificate for this, and ask the bank what else it needs. If the amount in an account in the deceased's name alone is small, the bank may release it without probate. Citizens Information, Access to money after a death (page edited 28 February 2024; read 10 October 2026)

WHO PAYS FIRST
The person who arranges the funeral pays the funeral director, and can be repaid from the estate. Citizens Information, When someone dies (page edited 25 May 2026; read 10 October 2026)

IF THE FAMILY CANNOT PAY
On a low income, you may get a means-tested Additional Needs Payment for the funeral. Fill in the application form and contact the Community Welfare Officer at your local office, ideally before the funeral. Citizens Information, Funeral arrangements and costs (page edited 5 October 2026; read 10 October 2026) ; Citizens Information, Benefits and entitlements following a death (page edited 7 August 2025; read 10 October 2026)

and

Find the will, and tell Social Protection PAPERWORK

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

The executor named in the will deals with the estate. If the deceased was getting a social welfare payment, tell the Department of Social Protection.

- [ ] Check papers at home, email, and with any solicitor
- [ ] Tell the Department of Social Protection within the first few days
- [ ] A widow or widower with dependent children: ask about the Bereaved Parent Grant

SOCIAL PROTECTION
Telling them does not mean a payment stops at once. A spouse or carer may keep receiving a payment for 6 weeks after the death. Citizens Information, Benefits and entitlements following a death (page edited 7 August 2025; read 10 October 2026)

- [ ] Secure the house and car, and keep the phone line active for sign-in codes

BEREAVED PARENT GRANT
A one-off €8,000 for a widow, widower, civil partner or cohabitant with dependent children, who also qualifies for a pension such as the Bereaved Partner's Contributory Pension. Citizens Information, Bereaved Parent Grant (page edited 19 September 2025; read 10 October 2026) ; Citizens Information, Benefits and entitlements following a death (page edited 7 August 2025; read 10 October 2026)

9 Settle and divide the estate PAPERWORK

In the months after

To deal with the estate, the executor takes out probate, or an administrator takes out letters of administration if there is no will. Irish law gives a husband or wife a fixed share, so following the Islamic shares exactly often needs the family to agree. Ask a solicitor early.

- [ ] Apply for the grant, through a solicitor or by a personal application
- [ ] Close accounts and cancel subscriptions
- [ ] 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 GRANT
Without a will, the administrator takes out letters of administration. You can apply without a solicitor, by a personal application, which means attending in person, but the fees are higher. The grant usually arrives by post in about 3 weeks. Citizens Information, Dealing with a deceased person's estate (page edited 30 September 2026; read 10 October 2026) ; Citizens Information, When someone dies (page edited 25 May 2026; read 10 October 2026)

HUSBAND OR WIFE

Even with a will, the husband or wife has a legal right to one third of the estate if there are children, or one half if there are none. Without a will, if there are children, the husband or wife gets two thirds and the children share one third; with no children, the husband or wife gets everything. A spouse can give up the legal right share, and should take independent legal advice first. Citizens Information, What happens to a deceased person's estate? (page edited 15 April 2024; read 10 October 2026)

CHILDREN

A child who feels they were not provided for can apply to court, within 6 months of the grant. Citizens Information, What happens to a deceased person's estate? (page edited 15 April 2024; read 10 October 2026)

A NIKAH ALONE

A marriage is legal only if a solemniser on the State register performs it. A wife by nikah alone may not inherit as a wife. Speak to a solicitor. Citizens Information, Religious and secular marriage ceremonies (page edited 10 July 2024; read 10 October 2026)

TAX

A husband, wife or civil partner pays no inheritance tax (Capital Acquisitions Tax) on what they receive from each other. Citizens Information, What happens to a deceased person's estate? (page edited 15 April 2024; read 10 October 2026)

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, Irish law decides who inherits, not the fixed shares. An Islamic will in Ireland is an ordinary Irish will that directs the estate by the shares, within the husband's or wife's legal right share.

- [ ] Sign it at the end in front of 2 witnesses, present together, who then sign in front of you
- [ ] Do not leave anything to a witness or their husband or wife
- [ ] Make a new will after marrying: marriage cancels an earlier will, unless it was clearly made with that marriage in mind
- [ ] Ask a solicitor how the legal right share affects the Islamic shares

Work out the Islamic shares to take to a solicitor ›

VALID WILL

It must be in writing, made by someone aged 18 or over, or who is or has been married, and of sound mind, and signed at the end in front of two witnesses, who sign in your presence. A gift to a witness or their spouse is not valid. Citizens Information, Making a will (page edited 8 July 2025; read 10 October 2026) ; Succession Act 1965, s. 77 (as enacted), Irish Statute Book

THE LEGAL RIGHT SHARE

A husband or wife is entitled to one third with children, or one half without, whatever the will says, unless they give it up. A child can also ask the court for provision. A will that follows the shares can still be changed by these rights. Citizens Information, What happens to a deceased person's estate? (page edited 15 April 2024; read 10 October 2026) ; Citizens Information, Making a will (page edited 8 July 2025; read 10 October 2026)

General guidance, not a fatwa or legal advice. Irish law on registering a death, the coroner and estates is national, but each local authority makes its own burial-ground bye-laws, so grave rules differ by county; your funeral director and a solicitor can confirm them.

Last reviewed October 2026. Something wrong? Tell us