

.In the Name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

**DAR AR-RAHMAH
ORR ROAD
MUSLIM CEMETERY**

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

(Rev. 3/14/06)

منها خلقناكم و فيها نعيدكم ومنها نخرجكم تارة اخرى

“(From the earth) We have created you, and into it We shall return you, and from it We shall bring you out once again.(20:55)

Death is inevitable and unpredictable and no one knows when and where it will occur. Every Muslim should always be ready to leave this world and meet the Creator:

كل نفس ذائقة الموت

“Every soul shall have a taste of death.(3:185)

Al-Hamdu Lillah, the Muslim Society of Memphis has necessary arrangements for the final journey. The cemetery is located at 900 Orr Road, Fayette County. It has now opened for burial since January 2006.

For the proper management of the cemetery and arrangements for burial, policies and procedures have been formulated by the Shura Council of MSM. Persons requesting to use the cemetery for burial arrangements shall observe these policies and procedures and any subsequent amendments made in the policies and procedures.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE USE OF THE CEMETERY

1. The cemetery shall be managed by the Mosque and Cemetery Committee appointed by the Shura of the Muslim Society of Memphis, hereinafter called the Committee. The funeral arrangements shall be the responsibility of the Funeral Sub-Committee. (For details see “Bylaws of MSM Mosque and Cemetery at Orr Road.” Passed Dec. 2005)
2. The cemetery shall be for the use of the Muslims of the Greater Memphis and the Tri-state (Arkansas , Mississippi, Tennessee) area.
3. Permission of the Funeral Sub- Committee shall be required for the use of the cemetery.
4. All funeral arrangements shall be made under the supervision of the person in charge of the cemetery.
5. Burial will not be allowed without the documents and information as required in the Application Form for Burial.

6. Lots can be purchased in advance. (Check with MSM Treasurer)
7. Burial lots shall be assigned by the Committee
8. Reserved lots shall not be assigned to other persons without the permission of the owner/s.
9. Complete uniformity shall be observed in the structure of the grave site. The graves shall have no super structure, ornamental work, candles, flowers, etc. and shall be level with the ground. A small headstone will be allowed to mark the grave.
10. M.S.M. reserves the right to regulate the method of decorating the graves to harmonize with the surroundings. No additional plants shall be allowed.
11. M.S.M. reserves the right to enlarge, reduce, or change the boundaries of the cemetery, remove, re-grade roads, drives, walks, or any part thereof.
12. M.S.M. disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage beyond its control, especially damages caused by the elements, acts of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasions, insurrections, riots or order of military or civil authority, whether damage be direct or collateral.

Procedures for Burial Request

13. Request for the burial will be made on the application form available at the MSM office. For burial arrangements at least 24 hours notice shall be required (unless waived by the Committee)
14. The application for burial should be accompanied by the following documents:
 - A. Hospital release certificate/ death certificate
 - B. Interstate transportation certificate if the body is brought from out of town
15. The formal death certificate from the state shall be provided by the family within a month.

Cost

16. The burial services cost is estimated to be \$1200-1500, (not including the price of the burial lot) and will cover:
 - A. Opening and closing of the grave
 - B. A biodegradable wooden box (if requested)
 - C. Transportation of the body from the holding place to the cemetery and funeral home charges
 - D. Escort Services (if requested, will cost extra)
 - D. Arrangement for washing the body
 - E. Kafan (Shroud) and other materials to prepare the body for burial
 - F. Death Certificate fee (To be obtained by the family)
 - G. Grave marker

Islamic Rules

The following Islamic rules based on the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (S) and the consensus of most of the Muslim scholars shall be observed by all using the cemetery for burial and visitation.

1. Preparation of the body (washing and shrouding) will be done according to the Sunnah of

the Prophet(S) There is no Islamic teaching of reading the Qur'an or making special dhikr while washing the body. There is no Islamic teaching of writing anything on the Kafan (shroud). There is no Islamic teaching of putting the picture of the deceased or some of his/her clothes or flowers in front of or around the Kafan.

2. The use of a biodegradable box will be allowed if requested or needed.
3. Women can attend the funeral prayer and visit the grave site after the burial, but they not allowed to be present at the burial while it is under way.
4. Wailing, chanting, or expression of grief aloud, is not consistent with the Sunnah of Prophet(S) and shall not be allowed.
5. During the burial all people present should observe the solemnness of the occasion by keeping quiet and not indulging chatting, remembering death and the truth of the Hereafter.
6. There is no Islamic teaching that requires people attending the funeral to wear black clothes or tie a black band on the arm. However, they should wear proper clothes.
7. Only Muslim men should carry the body and lay it in the grave. They should be in a state of complete Tahara(purity)
8. A deceased female is laid in the grave by her husband, sons, her father, brothers, uncles, or in the absence of these, by the imam and elderly persons of the community.
9. The grave should be perpendicular (horizontal) to the direction of Qiblah and should be dug at least 5 feet deep.
10. The deceased body should be entered into the grave from the direction where his/her feet will be (from the rear of the grave) unless it is not possible to do so.
11. People lowering the body into the grave should say: "*Bismillah wa 'ala millati/sunnati Rasool Allah*"
12. The body of the deceased should rest on his right side and should be close to the wall of the grave, and the face should be toward Qiblah.
13. The ties of the feet and head should be undone. There is no Islamic teaching to reveal the face of the deceased in the grave.
14. After the body is fully covered, it is desirable to throw three handfuls of soil into the grave .
15. Just after the burial all present at the grave site should make Dua' for the deceased.

