

## Religious Requirements at the time of death

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<u>Religion</u>	<u>Main Points</u>	<u>Cremation / Burial</u>	<u>Funeral Requirements</u>	<u>PM's</u>	<u>Organ Donation</u>	<u>Ritual</u>	<u>Noteworthy Points</u>	<u>COVID-19 Links</u> <i>Not all faiths have published guidance</i>
<b>Christianity</b>	Christianity is an Abrahamic monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. Its adherents, known as Christians, believe that Jesus is the Christ, whose coming as the messiah was prophesied in the Hebrew Bible, called the Old Testament in Christianity, and chronicled in the New Testament	Either	Nothing specific	Y	Y	Nothing specific	May request a priest for 'Last Rites'	<a href="#">Church of England</a> <a href="#">Methodist Church</a> <a href="#">Roman Catholic Church</a> <a href="#">The Baptist Union</a> <a href="#">United Reform Church</a>
<b>Islam</b>	The word Islam means submission to the will of God and its followers are Muslims. They believe in one God (Allah) and regard the religion's founder Mohammed as the prophet of Allah. The Koran (Quran), is Allah's word consists of the teachings of Islam. This, along with recorded sayings of Prophet Mohammed and his acts, constitute the Islamic legal system (Sharia)	Burial	Within 24hr of death	N	N	Face Makkah (the Qibla)  It is an important religious duty to visit the sick and dying, so a large number of visitors may arrive at all hours. It is customary among Pakistanis and Arabs to express their emotion freely when a relative dies. Whenever possible you should give them privacy to do so; and explain gently but firmly the need to avoid disturbing other's by their mourning.	Ideally only male Muslims should handle a male body, and female Muslims a female body.	<a href="#">National Muslim Burial Council</a>

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<b>Judaism</b>	<p>Judaism is based on the belief in one God. The love of God and the wish to carry out the Ten Commandments as given in the 'Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament) And also based on laws and regulations developed after the Hebrew Bible was finalised'. Religion and culture are inextricably mixed.</p> <p>The Jewish Sabbath begins before nightfall on Friday and ends with the first sighting of three stars on Saturday night (i.e. sunset' to sunset). -'In addition please note that all Jewish Festivals start with sunset and end the next day with sunset (when you see the first stars appearing)</p>	Both Liberal & Reform Judaism allows for cremation, whereas Orthodox Judaism prohibits it	<p>Within 24hr of death but not on Shabbat (Saturday) or , Jewish Festivals such as First two days and last two days of Passover (lasts 7/8 days) Shavuot (Lasts 2 days) and Succoth (lasts 7/8 days) apart from Minor Festivals such as Purim and Chanukah</p> <p>At the funeral, close relatives may make a tear in one of their garments.</p> <p>It is Jewish tradition that when a Jewish person dies, a Wach'a (Watcher) may stay with the body from the time of death until the burial – this is not always done so might be worth asking.</p>	N	Y	<p>When a Jewish person dies, the following guidelines apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do not touch the body until 20 minutes after death.</li> <li>2. Do not wash the body (clean crevices if required to preserve the dignity of the deceased).</li> <li>3. Do not remove false teeth or other prostheses.</li> <li>4. Close the eyes.</li> <li>5. Straighten the body out, laying it flat with the feet together and arms by the side. Fingers should be straight.</li> <li>6. Cover the body with a plain white sheet without emblems.</li> <li>7. The body should be placed with the feet towards the doorway.</li> </ol>	<p>Identification of a Dead Male is particularly important for the position of a widow in Jewish law.</p> <p>Jewish Undertakers should be contacted when a person dies and they will perform ritual washing.</p>	<p><a href="#">United Synagogue</a>  <a href="#">Masorti Judaism</a>  <a href="#">Liberal Judaism</a>  <a href="#">Movement for Reform Judaism</a>  <a href="#">Chabad Judasim</a></p>

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<b>Hinduism</b>	Hinduism embraces a way of life and a social system which involves the worship of numerous gods, all of them manifestations of the one Supreme Being. In Hinduism, there is no supreme church authority and no hierarchy.	Cremation preferred	Ideally, Hindus are cremated on the day of death but the formalities required in Britain make this impractical.	N		<p>The dead body should be placed with the head facing north and the feet facing south.</p> <p>The arms should be placed to the sides and the legs should be straightened.</p> <p>The face should be pointed upwards with the eyes closed and the whole body must always be covered with a white cloth.</p> <p>Any detached body parts must be treated with respect as if they were a complete body. Sacred objects should not be removed.</p>	Gloves should be worn by non-Hindus when touching the body. The family normally wish to perform Last Offices themselves	<a href="#">Hindu Council UK</a>

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<b>Sikhism</b>	The word Sikh means disciple or follower, and they believe in one God whose message is revealed by Guru Nanak, the 16th Century founder of the religion.	Prefer cremation, although burial is permitted if cremation is impossible	As soon as possible after death, and friends and relatives will prepare the body the night before the cremation at the funeral parlour.	N	Y	<p>It is vital for staff to ensure that none of the five symbols of Sikhism are disturbed. It is also important not to trim the hair or beard, and the hair on the head should be kept covered.</p> <p>These symbols are:  <b>KESH</b> – uncut hair (and beard)  <b>KANGHA</b> – a semi-circular comb fixing the hair in a bun.  <b>KARA</b> – a steel or gold bangle worn on the right wrist.  <b>KIRPAN</b> – a symbolic dagger.  <b>KACHI</b> – shorts/underpants.</p> <p>The five Ks should be left on the dead body, which should if possible be cleaned and clothed in clean garments before being placed in a coffin or on a bier.</p>	<p>After death and identification, the body or parts of the body should be covered with a plain white sheet or shroud. If the condition of the body permits, the eyes and mouth should be closed and limbs straightened with arms placed straight beside the body.</p> <p>According to Sikh etiquette comforting a member of the opposite sex by physical contact should be avoided unless those involved are closely related</p>	<a href="#">City Sikhs</a>

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<b>Baha'i</b>	The Bahá'í faith is one of the youngest of the world's major religions. It was founded by Bahá'u'lláh in Iran in 1863. Iran was then mainly a Muslim country, and the faith was proclaimed by a young Iranian, who called himself The Báb. He said that a messenger would soon arrive from God, who would be the latest in a line of prophets including Moses, Muhammad and Jesus Christ	Burial - no embalming (but temporary acceptable)	At some point before interment a special prayer for the dead is said for deceased aged 15 or over.	Y	Y	A special ring may be placed on the deceased's finger –do not remove. Body wrapped in plain cloth or silk.	Baha'i Law prescribes that burial should take place at a distance of not more than one hour's journey from the place of death.	<a href="#">Email Bahai UK</a>
<b>Buddhism</b>	The Buddhist faith centres on the Buddha who is revered as an example to his followers of a way of life.  Buddhahood is realised within the person through prayers, purifications, retreats and virtuous conduct.	Either (though cremation is more usual in the country of origin of many Buddhist families	When a Buddhist dies special prayers usually take place for a period of time. This period depends on the lunar calendar and varies between three to seven days in most schools of Buddhism	Y*	Y	An experienced Buddhist practitioner may perform the special Buddhist practice of Powa or ejection of consciousness.  They may wish for a Buddha figure close by and may use a candle or incense stick.	*Technically, Buddhists should not have any issues with carrying out a post-mortem because the body is not held in great reverence once its consciousness has departed. However, some Buddhists believe that it takes at least three days for consciousness to leave a body and that no disturbance or movement should take place during that time, so a quick post-mortem could endanger this process	<a href="#">The Buddhist Society</a>

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<b>Paganism</b>	Paganism describes a group of contemporary religions based on a reverence for nature. These faiths draw on the traditional religions of indigenous peoples throughout the world	Either	Most Pagan funerals will take place outdoors, either in an established memorial site or a location of significance to the deceased, such as a natural place which the individual shared an affinity with or where they regularly held or took part in ceremonies.	Y	Y	Most Pagan funerary rituals will involve some sort of singing, chanting and/or the reading of text; this may be accompanied by the partaking of wine or mead and the consumption of food such as bread. It is common for Pagans to cast a ritual circle and call on the four directions of the compass or the four elements during a ceremony. The ritual may consist of periods of meditation and reflection and will sometimes involve the burning of incense or oils and a ritual fire. Given the British climate and the comparative rarity of the practice, it is unlikely that Pagans will be naked at funerary rituals.	Pagans believe in reincarnation. Most pagans believe in some form of reincarnation, viewing death as a transition within a continuing process of existence. Pagans accept death as a Natural part of life and will wish to know when they are dying so that they may consciously prepare for it.	

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<b>Humanism</b>	Humanism is a philosophical and ethical stance that emphasizes the value and agency of human beings, individually and collectively, and generally prefers critical thinking and evidence (rationalism and empiricism) over acceptance of dogma or superstition.	Either	Nothing specific	Y	Y	The shell, the body, should be treated with respect because it has been the recognisable form of the person who has died.		<a href="#">Humanism UK</a>
<b>Jehovah Witness</b>	Jehovah's Witnesses are members of a religious organisation that originated in the U.S.A. in 1872. They attach great importance to Christ's second coming with the ensuing Armageddon and Last Judgement entailing the destruction of all but the faithful.	Either	Nothing specific	No	No	Nothing specific	They refer to death as "passing over" and having led a blameless life, have nothing to fear from it. This means they may not demonstrate the emotions our society usually expects	<a href="#">JW Website</a>