

Islamic Funeral Guide for Texas Families

Same-day burial, ghusl, kafan, janazah, kabr — and how Texas law fits.

This guide is for Muslim families in the Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex. It covers religious foundations, Texas legal framework, the same-day burial timeline, four pillars of Islamic funeral practice, cemetery options, financial paths, and a glossary of Arabic terms.

I. The four pillars of Islamic funeral practice

Islamic funeral is a collective religious obligation (fard kifayah) involving four rites, in sequence:

- Ghusl al-Mayyit — ritual washing by same-gender community members; three rounds, with camphor in the final round
- Kafan — plain white unstitched cotton shroud; three pieces for men, five for women; perfumed with hanut
- Janazah — short standing prayer led by imam; four takbirs with Al-Fatihah, salawat, and du'a for the deceased
- Kabr — burial on the right side facing qibla (Mecca; approximately 33° east of true north from Texas)

Speed is mercy. Classical hadith urges burial within 24 hours. Texas law does not stand in the way for burial (the 48-hour wait applies only to cremation).

II. Texas legal framework

- Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 193 — vital statistics and death certificate filing
- Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 711 — cemeteries
- Texas Health & Safety Code § 716.051 — 48-hour wait applies to cremation only, not burial
- 16 CFR 453 — FTC Funeral Rule (federal)

Required: death certificate signed by physician or county Medical Examiner; burial permit from county (typically 2–4 hour turnaround via TxVER electronic filing during business hours); interment at a permitted cemetery.

Not required: embalming, specific casket, waiting period for burial, or any ritual preparation other than what the family chooses.

III. The same-day burial timeline

Typical weekday case, 8–10 hours total from passing to kabr:

- Hour 0 — passing confirmed; family calls (214) 738-4276
- Hour 0:30 — transfer team dispatched; paperwork begins
- Hour 1 — physician signs medical certificate of death
- Hour 2 — transfer into facility or masjid ghusl room
- Hour 3–5 — ghusl and kafan
- Hour 4–6 — county burial permit issued
- Hour 6–8 — transport to masjid for janazah after Dhuhr or Asr
- Hour 8–10 — transport to cemetery; burial with community

Weekend passings and late-Friday deaths shift burial to Monday because the county permit office is closed. During the wait, the body is held in refrigeration — no embalming, religiously unnecessary.

IV. Ghusl al-Mayyit — the ritual washing

Ghusl is performed by family or community volunteers of the same gender as the deceased. Cross-gender ghusl is permitted only between spouses (a husband may wash his wife and vice versa) or for infants under seven.

Procedure: ablution (wudu) first; three washes with soap and water; final wash with camphor or rose water; dry with clean cloths. The body's private areas remain covered throughout.

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V. Kafan — shrouding

Plain, unstitched, white cotton cloth. Three pieces for men (izar lower wrap, qamis shirt, lifafah outer), five for women (adding khimar head covering and sinabad chest binding). Perfume (hanut, usually camphor and musk) is applied before the final wrap. The kafan is tied at head, feet, and sometimes waist with strips of the same cloth.

VI. Janazah prayer

Four takbirs; no ruku or sujud. Recitation in order: Al-Fatihah, salawat upon the Prophet (peace be upon him), du'a for the deceased, tasleem. Typical duration: 10 minutes.

Held at the masjid after Dhuhr, Asr, or Maghrib prayer, or at the graveside. Women may attend at most DFW masjid in a designated area; non-Muslim attendees stand respectfully to the side.

VII. DFW Islamic cemeteries (brief reference)

- Restland Memorial Park Muslim Section — Dallas; plots \$3,500–\$6,500
- IANT Cemetery — Wylie; subsidized for IANT members
- Islamic Cemetery of North Texas — Forney; plots \$2,500–\$4,500; community-owned
- Garden of Al-Rahman — Fort Worth
- Shiloh Memorial Park Muslim Section — Plano
- DFW National Cemetery — free for eligible Muslim veterans

VIII. Partner masajid in DFW

Sunni: IANT (Richardson), Islamic Center of Irving, EPIC (Plano), IACC (Plano), Dar El-Salam (Garland), Dallas Central Mosque, Al-Hedayah (Fort Worth), Islamic Center of Greater Dallas (Arlington). Shia: SIJ Dallas, Momin Center (Plano).

IX. International repatriation

Typical timeline: 5–10 days from death to burial at destination. Process: death certificate filed; consular notification; apostille and translation; Texas DSHS Transit Permit; embalming (required for transport) and encasement in zinc-lined casket; air cargo via DFW International; partner funeral home at destination. Costs: \$3,500–\$7,000 in pass-through costs beyond our \$2,495 service fee. All costs passed through at actual cost, no markup.

X. Sharia-compliant payment

- Zakat — for families qualifying as fi sabilillah or fuqara; contact masjid zakat committee
- Sadaqah — voluntary community contributions
- Jamaat funds — community funeral funds (BANT, Pakistan Society, Turkish American Society)
- Takaful — Islamic insurance (limited U.S. availability)
- Conventional life insurance — permitted under AMJA fatawa in U.S. where takaful is impractical
- Vargas-Cabrera interest-free payment plans — no riba, no hidden fees

XI. Glossary (abbreviated)

Allah Yarham ■ May Allah have mercy on him/her.

Fard kifayah ■ Collective obligation.

Ghusl al-Mayyit ■ Ritual washing of the deceased.

Hanut ■ Funeral perfume, usually camphor and musk.

Iddah ■ Widow's mourning period (4 months, 10 days).

Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un ■ Verily to Allah we belong and to Him we return.

Janazah ■ Funeral prayer.

Kabr ■ Grave or burial.

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Kafan ■ Unstitched white burial shroud.

Niyyaha ■ Loud wailing (discouraged).

Qibla ■ Direction of Mecca.

Riba ■ Interest (prohibited in Islamic finance).

Sabr ■ Patience; virtue commended in grief.

Sadaqah jariyah ■ Ongoing charity dedicated in someone's name.

Takaful ■ Sharia-compliant mutual insurance.

Tawakkul ■ Trust in Allah.

XII. Contact us

Vargas-Cabrera Funeral Home And Cremation Services. 24/7 line: (214) 738-4276. Email: care@vargascabrerafuneralhome.com. Full HTML guide and updates: www.vargascabrerafuneralhome.com/resources/muslim-funeral-guide.html