



GLOUCESTERSHIRE MUSLIM BEREAVEMENT COUNCIL

Supporting the Muslim Communities in Association with the Mosque in Gloucestershire

12th April 2020

Bismih Ta'Alaa

Due to the exceptional circumstances we are experiencing in all our communities, we need to share some important information with you and your household, particularly relating to the Muslim Communities of Gloucestershire.

We understand that this will be distressing but at some stage some families may experience the sad reality of losing their loved one, therefore it is crucially important for the safety of everyone please take the time to read this circular and follow carefully the instructions that will explain the process & procedure, if & when you are faced with a bereavement. The information below is a step by step guide & answers to some of the questions that can arise.

We are here to support you & ensure that all practical arrangements are put in place should you sadly lose your loved one due to normal circumstances or related to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) death. We will work with all the relevant authorities to undertake and make all the necessary arrangements to make certain that your loved one is treated with dignity and respect at all times, with the minimum of delay.

Who are we? We are the GLOUCESTERSHIRE MUSLIM BEREAVEMENT COUNCIL (GMBC), A dedicated team of volunteers who are in place and available to provide and manage all the funeral burial requirement for the Muslim community of Gloucestershire and surrounding area.

GMBC HOSPITAL ADMITTANCE GUIDLINE

Sadly, if a member of your family is faced with the possibility of being admitted into Hospital, it would help us to help you if you can make a note of the following procedure:

- Remove all valuable jewellery, watches etc. from the patient
Due to the current climate, items of value could be misplaced and subsequently it may not be possible to retrieve them afterwards.
- Have a photograph of the patient available should the need arise for identification.
- Notify one of the members of the *GMBC team once the patient has been admitted.

It is important that we have accurate information at all times, this will allow us to work effectively & also be able to keep a check on the progress & wellbeing of your loved one. *<http://masjidenoor.org.uk/gmbc/contact.php>

All information that you give will be confidential

- Full name of patient
- Address of patient
- Date of birth of patient
- Reason for admission / Ward Information
- Your contact details

What happens next?...

Patient in Hospital (Diagnosed - End of Life Care - Palliative care)

We recommend that you make prior arrangements with the ward Lead Nurse/Sister, that in the event of the passing of your loved one you wish to delegate the responsibility to GMBC who will liaise on your behalf, if you wish for this to be the case then you must contact us on the numbers below as we will be happy to discuss matters on your behalf.

Patient Discharged from Hospital (Diagnosed - End of Life Care - Palliative care)

- **ISMAIL MEHTER: 07976298107**
- **ZAKARIA JEEWA: 07813104668**

Please speak to any of our Key Contacts (numbers above) prior to discharge or as soon as the deceased have been discharged. They will advise you and with your consent if possible, try to make arrangements with your GP/Dr for issuing of the necessary (MCCD) certificates as quickly as possible. To avoid any delays.

Patient at Home

Unfortunately, should a member of your family who has chronic illness and is critically ill who are nearing the end of life, and are at home it is important that you make contact with your Dr as they must have seen the patient in the last 28 days (if necessary by video/visual consultation) if required with your consent we will be happy to consult with your Dr and put procedure in place to avoid undue delay in issuing the MCCD Certificate

Contact with your loved one who has died. (Of Confirmed or Suspected Covid -19 Death Only)

We know how difficult & distressing this must be for you. It saddens us to highlight that once the GMBC team has been given notice any further contact with your loved one is now extremely limited or none in the event of (**Confirmed or Suspected Covid -19 Death Only**) This measure is designed to keep you and those around you protected & safe. GMBC team will take care of the necessary legal requirement of certification and arrangements for the Ghusal and *Burial.

Making Arrangements

Once GMBC is satisfied that all the legal certification is in place, arrangements will be made after consulting the families main contact of Ghusal and when *Burial is likely to take place.

Hospital or Home unexplained death

If the death of your loved remains unexplained, then further investigation will be carried out in accordance to the Law and possibly referred to the Coroners, if this is the case then a delay in pursuing with the burial process is most likely to be delayed, specifically in the current Covid-19 situation. GMBC are unable to determine the duration of time this process will or can take. However, if GMBC is given your consent, we will liaise on your behalf to ensure the minimum of delay occurs thus avoiding any hinderance in the burial process & funeral arrangements.

GMBC & Gloucestershire local resilience forum (GLRS)

If there is the likelihood of a delay or death occurs suddenly GMBC will request GLRF team to attend and make arrangements for your loved one to be taken to a temporary mortuary in Gloucestershire, there are currently two available. Please forward any documentation and reference details that you have obtained from GLRF to GMBC Key contact in order that we can make arrangements for release once documents are in place to proceed.

If your loved one is taken to a mortuary it will not be possible for you to visit or spend time with them. This is to keep you and those around you safe & protected.