

# COSTS

## How much does it cost a funeral?

In Germany funerals are liable to costs. Among other things there are costs for:

The emission of death certificate

- The services of Funeral Companies (coffin/transfer/formalities)
- Cemetery costs (Use of the grave location for 20 years/opening and closing of the grave/administrative costs)
- General administrative costs (death certificate/death certification/translation)

The average cost for a funeral is between 3000 and 3500€. The costs are carried by the family members who are obliged to pay for the funeral, if necessary from the inheritance of the deceased. If it is not possible for the relatives to bear the costs, an application for the payment of the funeral cost can be made in accordance with § 74 SGB XII (social burial).

## Social burial

Before that the social welfare office takes charge of the costs, they will examine the financial situation. An application can be made before the funeral, but also up to three months later. Only eligible costs will be reimbursed. You are welcome to ask for advice to the staff of the social welfare office.

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Publisher:  
©2022 Stadt Leipzig  
Der Oberbürgermeister  
Referat für Migration und Integration  
mit freundlicher Unterstützung des  
Quartiersmanagements Leipziger Osten  
und des Amtes für Stadtgrün und Gewässer



**Stadt Leipzig**

Referat für Migration und  
Integration

# MUSLIM FUNERAL IN LEIPZIG



Islam is part of the several religious and cultural life in our city. The law guarantees the freedom of religion to all the inhabitants of Germany. This also includes in case of death the respect of Muslims religious needs. Religious regulations and requirements are implemented according to the actual general ordinances.

Since 1997 it has existed in Leipzig, a Muslim burial ground in the East Cemetery. Nevertheless there are often questions and uncertainties about the necessary steps for a funeral according to the precepts of Islam. This flyer summarizes the answers to the more recurrent questions. It addresses all people who come in contact with this topic.

### What to do in case of death?

If the death happens at home, please inform a doctor (family or emergency doctor). The doctor will conduct the postmortem and issue the death certificate. If the death happened in the hospital the death certificate will be automatically issued there.

### Commissioning a funeral service

In Germany a funeral may only be conducted by a funeral company. The relatives commission as soon as possible a funeral company of their choice.

These one takes care of, among other things:

- Pick up or transfer of the deceased.
- Arrangements with the cemetery
- Communication with the civil office for the issuing of the death certificate
- Translation of documents or organisation of the translation of the documents which are necessary for issuing the death certificate
- Arrangement of the date and submission of the application for the burial to the cemetery administration. The opening and closing of the grave site is performed exclusively by the employees of the cemetery.

### Ritual ablution

In Leipzig there are only a few burial providers who perform a ritual ablution in accordance with the Islamic commandments and who have the appropriate facilities. An ablution is currently not possible at the municipal cemeteries.

### Organize - if possible - the following necessary papers

Documents of the deceased for the issuance of a certificate in the registry office:

To determine the identity:

- Identity card/passport and residence permit

Civil status documents:

- Verification of birth, e.g. birth certificate/civil register extract
- If married: marriage or civil partnership certificate of the last marriage and if available marriage contract
- If divorced/widowed: Proof of the termination of the last marriage (e.g. divorce certificate) or death certificate

All documents must be submitted in original and they need to be translated by one interpreter who is publicly appointed and generally sworn in Germany (you can find one at: [www.justiz-uebersetzer.de/suche\\_action](http://www.justiz-uebersetzer.de/suche_action)). The translated original document must be attached to the translation as proof that they belong together.

**Note:** The preparation and acquisition of documents from abroad may take some time due to the need to over-authenticate for using these documents in Germany. In the best case starting from today, take care of the applications for the above mentioned documents. It can save your relatives from long processing times at the registry office and during the application for benefits for the surviving relatives.

### Important information

#### The period until the funeral and obligatory coffin

In Germany deceased persons must be buried not earlier than 48 hours after their death, but not later than 8 days after the determination of death. Saturday, Sunday and holidays are not calculated in the determination of the limit date. Moreover in Saxony there is the obligation for a coffin. A burial in a linen drape without a coffin is not allowed according to the legal regulation in Saxony.

#### Muslim Burial Ground

A Muslim burial ground exists in the East Cemetery in the Oststraße 119. The graves are oriented to Mecca and are available for Muslim of all faiths. The location of the grave in the grave ground is determined by the administration of the cemetery in consultation with the relatives. The approval of an imam is not necessary for burial in the Muslim burial ground. You can freely choose an imam to accompany the funeral. The opening and closing of the grave is carried out exclusively by the cemetery employees.

#### Perpetual Rest

In Germany there is a determined set of time in the cemeteries for how long the graves can remain untouched. In Leipzig the resting time is 20 years. After that the grave location can be extended with the payment of a fee. Otherwise these grave locations are reallocated as new grave locations for another muslim burial.

#### Design and care of the graves

The relatives are responsible for the care of the grave locations. The design of the grave locations can be based on design guidelines. The approval of the cemetery administration is required for the erection of the gravestones.

**More information:** [www.leipzig.de/friedhoefe](http://www.leipzig.de/friedhoefe)