

What to Expect at a Muslim Funeral: Flint Islamic Center (FIC)

Hastening of the Burial:

According to Islamic teachings, the burial for the deceased is hastened. It is not uncommon for the funeral to be held within 24 hours. When Muslims hear of a death, they recite from the Quran. 2:156 [Truly! To Allah we belong and truly, to Him we shall return]

Preparing the deceased for Burial:

The deceased's body is gently washed and wrapped in a simple shroud. Family members/close friends generally have said or say their final goodbyes at this point, as there is no viewing or wake that takes place. The deceased is then placed into a casket to be taken to FIC for funeral prayers.

Entering the Flint Islamic Center

Upon entering FIC, there is the specific area for prayers and remembrance of God, known as the masjid/mosque/prayer area. Men and women enter and are seated separately. The dress code for men and women should be modest, no tight or transparent clothing. Men can wear a shirt and pants, women ankle length loose pants/dress/skirt, together with a high-necked top. A headscarf is not necessary, but if you would like to cover, you are more than welcome to do so.

Shoes are removed before going into the prayer area. Therefore, it may be a good idea to wear clean, presentable socks.

The prayer area does not have furniture or seating as Muslims bow and prostrate during prayers. However, during funeral prayers, FIC places chairs to accommodate guests and ensure their comfort.

Funeral Prayers for the Deceased

To maximize attendance, family members generally request the funeral prayers to take place after one of the obligatory prayer times. You will see men lining up into straight lines at the front of the prayer area, and women lining up in straight lines, right behind. After the obligatory prayers take place, the Imam will give a short talk, the deceased will be brought in, the coffin placed at the front, and the funeral prayers will then commence.

Muslims do not bow or prostrate during the funeral prayers. The prayers are silent, with only “Allahu akbar” (God is the Greatest) being heard. The prayers end when you see the congregants turn their heads to the right, then to their left, completing the prayer.

The Funeral Procession:

Congregants begin to disperse, give condolences, then leave to their cars for the funeral procession to the Garden of Peace Cemetery, located at 1310 S. Morrish Rd. in Swartz Creek. As a sign of respect for the deceased, graves are not stepped on directly; rather attendees can walk around them. The deceased is then lowered into the grave, feet first and placed on their right side, with their face towards Mecca (direction of prayer). You will hear prayers being made as this is done. No dirt is allowed to fall directly onto the face of the deceased. The site is then covered and the family members will have time to say goodbye.