

RULES AND ETIQUETTE

The CEMETERY and all GRAVESITES MUST be maintained at all times in accordance with the QURAN and SUNNAH and NOT based on personal or cultural traditions.

The Ottawa Muslim Cemetery Inc. persevered over 19 years to establish a Muslim cemetery to provide affordable burials based on the Qur'an and Sunnah. The tireless work of the organization and the dedicated members of the Muslim community resulted in the establishment of the first Muslim cemetery in Ottawa where families have laid their loved ones in their final resting place.

The Prophet ﷺ encouraged the visitation of graves, stating, "Visit graves, for it reminds one of one's death." (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim, no. 976)

We encourage the families and friends of the deceased to visit, pay their respects, and make dua for their loved ones. We humbly request that you please follow the rules that is set for the grave site and the entire cemetery grounds so that the objective of uniformity is ascertained.

Please do not pollute the grounds with decorations of any sort; these decorations provide no benefit to the deceased. Thousands of dollars are wasted both in the purchasing of the decorations as well as the cleaning of the grounds by the staff. The funds utilized for these decorations could alternatively be given as donations towards the cemetery or for a noble cause of the Deen, which can be Sadaqah Jariyah for the deceased and you Insha'Allah.

General

The rules and etiquette are established after balancing government regulations, Islamic Practices, and the need for a safe, tidy and well maintained cemetery grounds. To maintain the dignity and decorum of the Cemetery, visitors shall at all time conduct themselves appropriately and shall observe the rules and etiquette.

Cemetery Management

1. The Muslim Cemetery and all grave sites is the property of the Ottawa Muslim Cemetery, Inc. (OMC).
2. The Ottawa Muslim Cemetery, Inc. reserves the right to allow or deny the burial of a deceased person for any reason and without any liability.
3. The Ottawa Muslim Cemetery, Inc. hereby shall take preventive and legal measures to enforce these rules and regulations.
4. When burial lots are purchased in advance or at the time of death, the Ottawa Muslim Cemetery, Inc. will allocate the sequence of graves and not on the preference of the purchaser.
5. Children under 12 years of age shall be supervised at all times. This is for their safety.
6. The OMC will not be responsible for any accidents occurred as a result of irresponsible behaviour or actions on your part within the cemetery grounds.
7. Improper conduct is grounds for expulsion from the cemetery property.

8. The OMC will not be responsible for loss or damage to cars and personal belongings of any visitor or third party in the Cemetery.

9. It is unlawful to:

- i) misuse cemetery property,
- ii) deface any sign or notice set by OMC on the site,
- iii) engage in any recreational activity,
- iv) walk or allow any dog to roam,
- v) have intoxicating liquors and drugs or be intoxicated,
- vi) park or drive any vehicle on the grass or among graves. Vehicles will be parked properly in the parking lot,
- vii) speed on the road in the cemetery property,
- viii) loiter or gather in groups for parties, picnics, parades, and processions,
- ix) use profane, loud, and raucous language or in any way disturb the quiet and good order of the cemetery,
- x) damage, remove, or deface cemetery property including, markers, fences, structures, design features, and all natural vegetation such as breaking branches off trees and plants on the entire cemetery property,
- xi) move or attempt to move benches,
- xii) access the cemetery when the main gate is closed.

10. Use of any sound systems (for the recitation of the Qur'an) must be kept personal or audible to nearby individuals only.

11. No advertisements, notice, or sign of any kind will be allowed unless placed or distributed by the Cemetery. Canvassing or distributing flyers is prohibited.

12. The Cemetery is open for visitations during daylight hours every day of the year. Opening hours changes with each season and are posted on the cemetery website. There are no lights on the cemetery grounds, and it is a hazard to visitors when it is dark as well as a liability. The main gate will be locked after hours.

13. The Ottawa Muslim Cemetery Inc. may at any time, without notice, adopt new rules and regulations or amend/alter and/or repeal any rule, regulation and/or sentence in these rules and regulations.

Gravesite Management

1. No monument, bench, table, candle, incense sticks, light, flag, decoration, tombstone or any other physical object are to be erected around or on the burial lot.

2. ANY approved headstone or grave marker **MUST** conform to the material and dimension standards and be installed flush to ground level by **ONLY** the cemetery staff. **ONLY** flat headstones are allowed.

3. Inscriptions of **ANY** approved headstone or grave marker **MUST** conform to the following requirements:

- i) No images of animals or humans shall be inscribed on the head stone.
- ii) No Qur'anic verse or names of Allah in Arabic, or supplication, poetry or prose whose content is contrary to Islamic principles shall be inscribed on the head stone.

4. No animal, of any kind, shall be buried within the Cemetery.

5. No trees, shrubs, tree branches, flower pots or plastic flowers and wreath shall be allowed on or around the grave site. Any such items will be removed by Cemetery staff. Cut flowers are acceptable (Enquire from OMC about a retractable vase for cut flowers).

6. Remove snow, grass, and soil from gravesites or place salt on the gravesites (kills the grass). Any such items will be removed by cemetery staff and violators may be asked to pay for clean-up and repair.
7. Erect a fence, hedge, railing, ditch, or stones and rocks to enclose a lot. Any such items will be removed by cemetery staff and violators may be asked to pay for clean-up and repair.
8. No person shall be allowed to remove or relocate any body once buried unless authorized by a competent court or municipal medical officer of health.
9. All graves will be kept flush to ground level. No mounds, structures, monuments or tombs of any type will be allowed.
10. The following acts at the gravesite are strictly prohibited:
 - i) plastering a grave,
 - ii) building up a grave,
 - iii) raising a grave,
 - iv) writing on a grave,
 - v) placing a flag or stick on a grave,
 - vi) making any changes or alterations to the graves.
11. The following acts are strictly prohibited within the cemetery grounds:
 - i) saying things that would anger Allah,
 - ii) sacrificing animals at or near the gravesite,
 - iii) lying down, sitting, and standing on any gravesite,
 - iv) circumambulate (tawaaf) or prostrate to any grave, or play songs or music
 - v) answering the call of nature or urinating among the gravesites,
 - vi) lamenting over the gravesites,
 - vi) performing magic and placing objects such as bones, eggs, and hair over the gravesite,
 - vii) hanging or placing the deceased's picture on or near the gravesite.
12. The Ottawa Muslim Cemetery Inc. or its representative reserves the right to remove, without prior notice, ANY items not conforming to the Ottawa Muslim Cemetery Inc.'s rules and regulations.
13. The cemetery grounds is under video surveillance.

Burial Process

1. Funeral homes and families must comply with the authentic Islamic burial regulations. Violators will be subject to legal action.
2. No interment shall be made without a proper burial permit. The burial permit MUST be handed over to the Cemetery staff prior to burial.
3. No interment shall be made unless a relative/personal representative of the deceased fills in and signs the Ottawa Muslim Cemetery Inc.'s burial agreement.
4. Digging a grave is the exclusive and sole responsibility of the Cemetery staff. Violators will be considered trespassers.

5. The deceased shall be laid in the grave on his/her right side facing the Qibla (direction of prayer).
6. In cases where a communicable disease is identified by the health authorities, no one shall be allowed to uncover the deceased's body in part or in total in the grave, at the gravesite, or anywhere within the Cemetery grounds.
7. Night burial is disapproved. There are no lights on the grave sites, and it is a hazard to cemetery staff and visitors at the cemetery, as well as a liability.