

Funeral and Burial Procedure

Note: The following assumes the use of Ashiya Cemetery, but the basic process is the same for other Baha'i cemeteries, except for the names of cemeteries and vendors.

1. What the bereaved family is to do:

(1) Obtain a burial permit: You need a doctor's death certificate and a death notification from the city hall of the deceased's residency. Submit them to the department in charge. If the deceased is a foreign resident, the alien registration card may be needed. If the city hall asks to choose between burial and cremation, then choose burial. They will ask you if there is a burial place, so you should give them the name and address of Ashiya Baha'i Cemetery as follows:

墓地名：芦屋市霊園内 バハイ墓地

住所：兵庫県芦屋市朝日が丘 37-17、バハイ墓地 12 地区、6-1

芦屋市役所内 環境課総務の電話： 0797-38-2050

管理事務所（芦屋市役所内）の電話： 0797-38-3105

The burial permit will be issued. Keep its copy too.

(2) Obtain a burial notification form from Ashiya City Hall. The applicant (representative from the bereaved family) should fill it in and press a seal.

※Submit these documents to the Baha'i Funeral Desk on the day of the funeral. Make sure you bring your seal) with you. The committee will take these and other necessary documents to the city hall for you.

(3) Inform the National Spiritual Assembly of the death (03-3209-7521) and also indicate whether the deceased has applied for cemetery reservation. Even if she/he has not, and if you wish to use a Baha'i cemetery, indicate so. Obtain a Baha'i cemetery use permit.

(4) Appoint someone to deal with a funeral home and have him/her inform friends and acquaintances of the date and place of the funeral, decide the funeral program, and ask others to help if needed.

(5) If you wish to have a memorial right after the funeral with participants, you may wish to reserve a place early. The following are examples: ホテル竹園 (0797-31-2341 JR 芦屋駅北出口向かい)、かごの屋芦屋店 (0797-21-2535 JR 芦屋駅近く)、音羽茶屋芦屋店 (0797-22-3800 JR 芦屋駅から徒歩約 15 分) . The funeral home 花岩葬儀社 (0797-31-2313) can also help you reserve a place.

(6) In order to carry a casket from a funeral car to a grave, you need at least six men; you should find them from your family/relatives/friends beforehand. Your funeral home may be able to send a couple of people.

(7) Appoint one person to recite the (obligatory) prayer for the departed.

(8) You may also need to have some flowers for the funeral. らんすいえん (Ransuien) is often used by Baha'is (Takarazuka, 0797-72-0871) . There is also a floral shop at the entrance to Ashiya Cemetery.

2. The Funeral Desk's job

(1) The Desk will prepare a cemetery use permit, decide on the plot within the cemetery as the grave and inform the family.

(2) Inform the burial company (Ishikame Kogei, Inc. 石亀工芸株式会社 078-221-5510) and decide on the date and time of the funeral in consultation with the family, the burial company, and the Desk. The funeral time is normally set for 13:00 because the burial company needs time to dig out the grave the day before or the morning of the funeral, depending on the weather, and also needs time to put the earth back. Moreover, you need time to transport the body (by car and/or air. The funeral itself normally takes about an hour.

(3) Inform the funeral home (Hanaiwa Funeral Home 花岩葬儀社 in Ashiya 0797-31-2313) of the details including the name of the deceased, contact information of the family, etc.

(4) Inform Ashiya City's Environment Department 芦屋市役所環境課 (0797-38-2050) of the date and other details of the funeral.

(5) After the burial, submit the following documents to Ashiya City Hall.

- (1) Burial permit from the deceased's city hall.
- (2) Burial notification (obtained from the family).
- (3) The Baha'i cemetery use permit.

3. The funeral home's job

- (1) They will consult with the family about details and costs.
- (2) They will transport the body from home to (if necessary, the funeral home and then to) the cemetery.
- (3) Dry ice may be needed for a coffin.

4. Other

*Burial coffins: Contact the Baha'i National Office to arrange for coffins. Depending on the size, large coffins will be delivered from Yamaguchi, while regular-sized coffins will be delivered directly from a vendor in Hyogo Prefecture to a location designated by the bereaved family.

*There are no specific ritual rules for the Baha'i Funeral Service, other than the recitation of the congregational prayer for the departed immediately prior to the burial. Other prayers or quotations may be read at the discretion of the bereaved family.

*If a "memorial service" is held immediately after the funeral, the family is free to weave in speeches or episodes in praise of the deceased.

*If you wish to have a Baha'i ring for burial, contact the National Office (this Baha'i law applicable to adults only).

*If you wish to wash and cleanse the body and wrap it in a cloth, you should prepare a cloth and consult with the hospital or funeral home in advance.

*The Ashiya Cemetery Management Office (in Ashiya City Hall) is closed on Saturdays and Sundays, but there are no holidays for Ashiya Cemetery, so funerals can be held at the Ashiya Cemetery as long as the burial and funeral service providers are available.

*Although the family can choose their own stonemason, Ishikame Kogei (石亀工芸株式会社 078-221-5510) is usually recommended because they are familiar with Baha'i needs from many years of experience.

5. Use of cemeteries other than Ashiya Cemetery

There are currently Baha'i cemeteries outside of Ashiya Cemetery in the following areas.

- * Yoichi 余市 (北海道余市梅川町 563 番地)
- * Akita 秋田 (秋田県潟上市天王字追分 117-20)
- * Ibaraki 茨城 (茨城県常総市坂手町 1307)
- * Yokohama 横浜 (横浜市中区外国人墓地)
- * Okinawa 沖縄 (沖縄県島尻郡佐敷町小谷慶多下原)

Membership in the Baha'i Cemetery Reservation System will contribute to the future expansion and maintenance of Baha'i cemeteries. However, any cemetery other than the above Baha'i cemeteries that can provide for the transport and burial of remains within one hour may be used. Each individual may wish to research available cemeteries. In such cases, the family should inform the National Assembly of the burial place of the deceased. In such cases, Baha'i burial laws must still be observed.

