



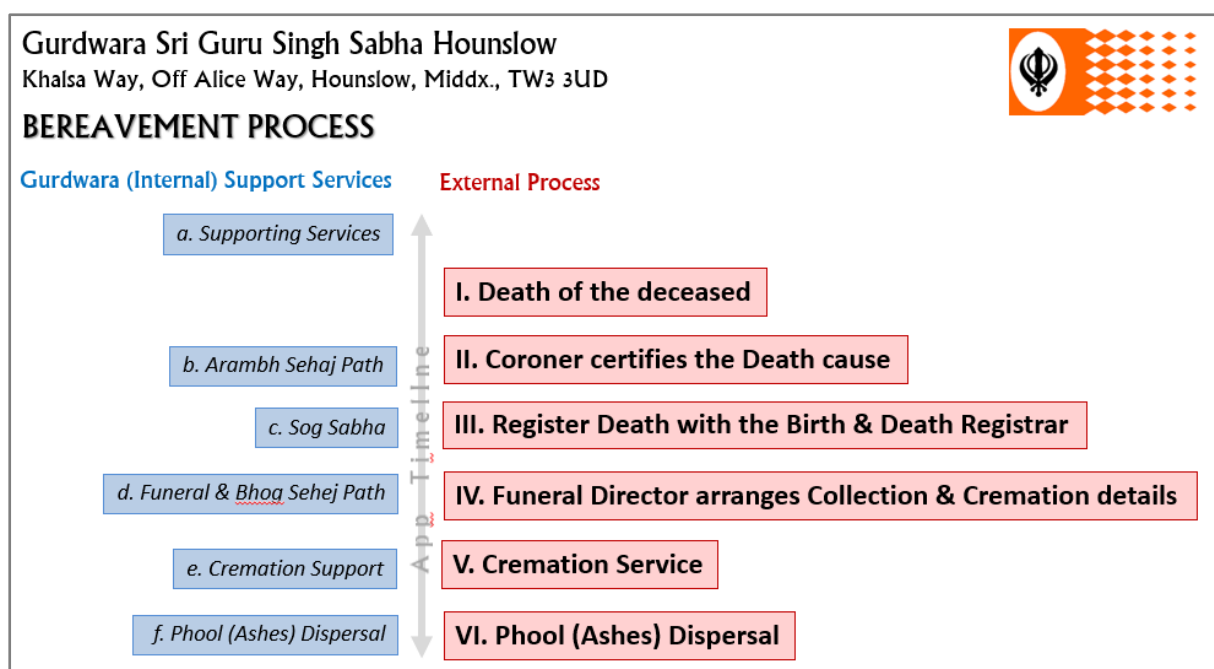
SGSS11 Bereavement Guidelines

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Overview

Bereavement is a time of great shock, sadness and emotional stress for the deceased's family. The SGSS Gurdwara staff and volunteers interacting with deceased's family will ensure that the family members are always treated compassionately, with dignity and respectfully.

The administrative Bereavement process, which is out of the Gurdwara's control is summarised in the illustration. However, the Gurdwara will support the family as practical as possible during this period.



Gurdwara Supported Services

Following a death, the family normally approaches the Gurdwara Office with their wishes or to seek guidance about the process to follow.

Post COVID and due to personal circumstances, some of the deceased's families may have requirements for a simpler funeral service. The Gurdwara will support the family wishes flexibly and offer the families the option to select from the following services, which must be formally booked in the Main Office (manned 10:00am-6:00pm daily):

1. Sehaj Paath Arambh and Bhog
2. Sog Sabha (Afsos)
3. Granthi Support for Funeral Day
4. Granthi Support for Scattering Ashes (Phool)
5. Kirtan
6. Langar

Note that the Gurdwara (in particular the Chaplaincy Services which organises regular visits to local Hospitals to provide support) remains flexible enough to ensure that reasonable requests are honoured.

Applicability

The services listed shall be provided, subject to availability of the facility and resources, at the Gurdwara Premises at Alice Way Hounslow. The services can be booked to use the facilities in

- Main Building Darbar Sahib and Langar Hall, or
- New Building Darbar Sahib and Kitchen [Only approved Outside Caterers can be used in the new building kitchen].

Charges for Services

The current charges for the services to be performed at the Gurdwara will be advised at the time of booking.

The Gurdwara Committee will consider requests for financial support, if requested, by the deceased's family for any funeral services that are to be performed at the Gurdwara. Such requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Support Services

I Sehaj Paath

Formal bookings for Arambh (start) of the Sehaj Paath, its Bhog (conclusion) and Kirtan Services must be made in the Main Office.

The Sehaj Paath Arambh services must be booked to commence at least 7 to 10 days before the funeral (cremation date).

II Sog Sabha (Afsos)

Members of the bereaved family can make bookings for Sog Sabha (Afsos get together) with the Main office. The time slots for Sog Sabha Services, dependant on availability shall be

- 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Note: The bereaved family members need to be made aware that other sangat members may be present in the Darbar Sahib and they need to ensure that all mourners attending the Sog Sabha service do not impose restrictions on other Gurdwara sangat members and staff.

If required, Kirtan Services, normally for 30 minutes, can be requested at the time of booking at the time; there will be a separate charge for such services.

III Funeral Day Support

On the day of the funeral, a Granthi can be made available (must be picked up from the Gurdwara).

Once the deceased family and hearse arrive at the Gurdwara a Granthi will be available to lead the mourners in prayers. The Granthi will perform Ardas before the deceased's coffin is loaded back onto the hearse for the journey to the Crematorium.

The allocated Granthi will accompany the family to the Crematorium and perform final prayers and Ardas.

The Sehaj Path Bhog and Kirtan services will take place at the Gurdwara on the day of the cremation, once the deceased's family and mourners return after the cremation service.

The mourners will have access to Langar or outside catering, depending on the family's wishes and the facility (building) that was booked for the service.

IV Langar Services

Main Building Langar: Families using the Main Building Langar Services will have access to the Langar Service provided by the Gurdwara.

New Building Bhojan: Families using the New Building Kitchen will be required to use Gurdwara approved outside caterers who will provide a vegetarian Bhojan. The current list of approved caterers will be provided at the time of booking.

V Support for Scattering of Ashes (Phool)

At the family's request a Granthi will be made available by the Gurdwara to support the family who will perform the Antim Ardas before the Ashes are scattered in water (normally a river). The Granthi must be picked up and returned back to the Gurdwara by the family; there will be a separate charge for such services.