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VOLUNTEER SERVICE ALLOWS RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS TO BE UPHELD

A new volunteer service has been set-up to help religions in Leeds which have unique burial requirements.

Registrars in Leeds have arranged for volunteers from the Muslim and Jewish communities to be able to issue the form needed to release a body from a morgue on a Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday when Leeds City Council's registrars' office is closed.

The initiative means that if a member of the Muslim or Jewish community dies over a weekend or Bank Holiday the body can still be buried within 24 hours as preferred by their individual faiths.

The Muslim based service has been recently established with the Al Hassan Education Centre in Chapeltown and will operate alongside a similar scheme which has been successfully run within Leeds' Jewish community.

Before the schemes were put into place families had to wait until the next working day for the form to be issued by the council's registrars.

Councillor Mark Harris, executive board member for Central and Corporate, said:

"This service has been made possible because of the kindness of Muslim and Jewish volunteers who have made themselves available for the benefit of their communities.

“We have listened to both groups and have worked with them to provide these services which will help maintain the burial traditions of both faiths.”

The contact number for the Muslim community to call during a weekend or over a Bank Holiday is 07967 511570 and the number for the Jewish community to call is 07966 555517.

Leeds City Council’s registrars can be contacted between Monday and Friday on 0113 2243622 between 9am and 4.30pm. For further information visit www.leeds.gov.uk

Any faiths which have needs which would benefit from a similar arrangement should contact Leeds registrars on the above number.

All deaths still need to be registered with registrars within five days of the death.

ENDS

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