

Antim Sanskar Checklist

A compassionate guide for families navigating last rites

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A step-by-step guide to help families navigate the sacred last rites with clarity and peace.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER PASSING

- Inform close family members
- Notify the cremation ground / funeral home
- Preserve body with ice if needed
- Light a diya (oil lamp) near the head
- Avoid eating non-veg and alcohol at home
- Contact a trusted priest / pandit
- Obtain Death Certificate from hospital
- Place body on the ground (floor) if possible
- Recite prayers or play soft bhajans
- Inform workplace / school of the family

DOCUMENTS TO GATHER

- Death Certificate (hospital)
- Cremation Ground permission slip
- Bank account details (for later)
- Will or testament (if any)
- Deceased's Aadhar Card / ID
- Municipal Death Registration form
- Insurance & nomination documents
- Passport (if applicable)

WHAT TO BRING TO THE CREMATION GROUND

- White cloth / shroud
- Rice / barley grains
- Gangajal (holy water)
- Ghee (clarified butter)
- Sandalwood logs or paste
- Copper vessel with water
- Sesame seeds (til)
- Tulsi leaves
- Camphor & incense sticks
- Wooden bier / stretcher
- Flowers & garlands
- Cash for cremation fees

ASTHI VISARJAN (Immersion of Ashes)

- Collect ashes (usually on 3rd day)
- Arrange for a pandit if required
- Offer sesame & flowers on water
- Donate clothes & food after rites
- Choose a sacred river or waterbody
- Carry copper / clay vessel
- Recite prayers / mantras
- Visit cremation ground for final prayers

*Every family and tradition may follow slightly different practices. This checklist is a general guide.
Always consult your family priest for specific rituals.*