

RELIGION	BELIEFS ABOUT BIRTH	BELIEFS ABOUT DEATH	HEALTH CARE BELIEFS	SPECIAL SYMBOLS, BOOKS, RELIGIOUS PRACTICES
<b>Baptist</b> *(Christian)	No infant baptism. Baptism after person reaches age of understanding	Clergy provides prayer and counseling to patient and family Autopsy, organ donation and cremation are an individual's choice. No last rites	Oppose abortion. Some believe in the power of "laying of hands". May respond passively to medical treatment, believing that illness is "God's will". Physician is instrument for God's intervention	Bible is the holy book. Rite of Communion is important. Baptism by full immersion in water after a person reaches an age of understanding and accepts Jesus Christ. Some use cross as symbol
<b>Buddhism</b>	No infant baptism but have infant presentation to dedicate child to Buddha	Believe in reincarnation. Desire calm environment and limited touching during the process of death. Buddhist priest must be present at death. Last rites chanted at bedside immediately after death. Autopsy and organ donation are controversial but usually regarded as an individual's choice. Cremation is common	Suffering is an inevitable part of life. Illness is the result of negative Karma (a person's acts and their ethical consequences). Cleanliness is important to maintain health.	Belief in Buddha, the "enlightened one". Tipitaka, three collections of writings are Buddhist canon. Nirvana, the state of greater inner freedom, is the goal of existence. Emphasize practice and personal enlightenment rather than doctrine or study of scripture. May use pictures or statues of Buddha as religious symbols. Some wear mala beads around the left wrist that may be removed if absolutely necessary
<b>Christian Scientist</b> (*Christian)	No infant baptism	No last rites. Autopsy only when required by law. Organ donation discouraged but can be an individual's decision	Illness can be eliminated through prayer and spiritual understanding. May not use medicine or surgical procedures. May refuse blood transfusions. Will accept legally mandated immunizations	Bible is the holy book. Rite of Communion is important. <i>Science and Health</i> by Mary Baker Eddy is basic textbook of Christian Science. Prayer and Faith will maintain health and prevent disease.
<b>Episcopal</b> *(Christian)	Infant baptism (may be performed by anyone in an emergency)	Some observe last rites by priest. Autopsy and organ donation encouraged. Cremation is an individual's choice	May use Holy Unction or anointing of the sick with oil as a healing sacrament	Bible is the holy book. Rite of Communion important. Book of Common Prayer. Use cross as the symbol
<b>Hinduism</b>	No ritual at birth. Naming ceremony is performed 10-11 days after birth to obtain blessings from gods and goddesses	Believe in reincarnation as humans, animals or even plants. Ultimate goal is freedom from the cycle of rebirth and death. Priest ties thread around the neck or wrist of the deceased and may pour water in the mouth. Only family and friends may touch and wash the body. Autopsy and organ donation discouraged but regarded as individual's decision. Cremation preferred	Some believe illness is punishment for sins. Some believe in faith healing. Will accept most medical interventions. Abortion and birth control are discouraged	Bedas, four books, are the sacred scripture. Brhma is principal source of universe and center of all things. All forms of nature and life are sacred. Person's Karma is determined by accumulated merits and demerits that result from all the actions the soul has committed in the past life or lives. Cows are sacred and feeding a cow is an act of worship. May use symbols such as statues of various gods, flat stones, incense or sandalwood.
<b>Islam (Muslim)</b>	Believe that first words an infant should hear at birth are "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is His prophet."	Family must be with dying person. Dying person must confess sins and ask forgiveness. Only family touches or washes body after death. Body is turned toward Mecca after death. Autopsy only when required by law. Organ donation is permitted if the donor consents in writing. Cremation not permitted	Illness is an atonement for sins. May face city of Mecca (southeast direction if in Canada) five times a day to pray to Allah. Ritual washing before and after prayer. Must take medications with right hand since left hand is considered dirty.	Allah is supreme deity. Mohammed, founder of Islam, is chief prophet. Holy Day of Worship is sunset Thursday to sunset Friday. Koran is holy book of Islam (do not touch or place anything on top). Prayer rug is sacred. Fast during daylight hours in month of Ramadan and during other religious holidays. May wear item with words from Koran on arm, neck, or waist; do not remove or allow item to get wet. An Imam is a Muslim preacher and teacher.
<b>Jehovah's Witness</b> *(Christian)	No infant baptism. Baptism by immersion done when child accepts beliefs	No last rites. Autopsy only when required by law. Organ donation discouraged but can be an individual's choice. All organs and tissues must be drained of blood before transplantation. Cremation permitted.	Prohibited from receiving blood or blood products. Elders of the church will pray and read scriptures to promote healing. Medications accepted if not derived from blood products.	Name for God is Jehovah. Bible is the holy book: New World Bible. Rite of Communion important. Church elders provide guidance. Each witness is a minister who must spread the group's teachings. Acknowledge allegiance only to kingdom of Jesus Christ and refuse allegiance to any government

RELIGION	BELIEFS ABOUT BIRTH	BELIEFS ABOUT DEATH	HEALTH CARE BELIEFS	SPECIAL SYMBOLS, BOOKS, RELIGIOUS PRACTICES
<b>Judaism (Orthodox)</b>	No infant baptism. Male circumcision performed on 8th day after birth by Mohel (circumcisor), child's father or Jewish physician	Person should never die alone. Body is ritually cleaned after death. May bury dead before sundown on the day of death and usually within 24 hours. Autopsy only when required by law. Organ donation only after consultation with rabbi. Cremation forbidden.	May refuse surgical procedure or diagnostic tests on Sabbath or holy days. Family may want surgically removed body parts for burial. Ritual handwashing upon awakening and prior to eating.	Lord God Jehovah is one. Sabbath is sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. Sabbath is devoted to prayer, study, and rest. Torah is basis of religion (five books of Moses). Rabbi is spiritual leader. Cantor often leads prayer services, performs marriages, and conducts funerals. Star of David is symbol of Judaism. Fast (no food or drink) during some holy days. Men may wear kippah or yarmulke (small cap) and a tallith (prayer shawl)
<b>Lutheran *(Christian)</b>	Infant baptism by sprinkling (may be performed by any baptized Christian in an emergency)	No last rites. Autopsy and organ donation allowed. Cremation permitted.	Communion often administered by clergy to sick or prior to surgery.	Bible is the holy book. Rite of communion important. Use cross as symbol
<b>Methodist (United)*(Christian)</b>	Infant baptism	No last rites. Organ donations are encouraged. Cremation permitted.	May request communion before surgery or while ill.	Bible is holy book. Rite of Communion important. Religion is a matter of personal belief and provides a guide for living. Use cross as symbol.
<b>Mormon (Latter Day Saints)</b>	Infant blessed by clergy in church as soon as possible after birth. Baptism at 8 years of age.	May want church elders present at death. No last rites. Autopsy and organ donation is individual's decision. Cremation discouraged.	May believe in divine healing with "laying on of hands" by church elders. Anointing with oil can promote healing.	momon refers to the four holy books: <i>The Bible, The Book of Mormon, The Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price</i> . Special undergarment may be worn to symbolize dedication to God and should not be removed unless necessary. Fast on first Sunday of each month. Avoid medications containing alcohol or caffiene.
<b>Presbyterian *(Christian)</b>	Infant baptism	No last rites. Autopsy and organ donation permitted. Cremation permitted.	Prayer and counselling an important part of healing. May request communion while ill or before surgery.	Bible is holy book. Rite of Communion important. Salvation is a gift from God. Use cross as symbol.
<b>Roman Catholic *(Christian)</b>	Infant baptism mandatory. Baptism necessary for salvation (any baptized Christian may perform an emergency baptism)	Sacrament of the Sick (last rites) performed by priest. Autopsy and organ donation permitted. Cremation permitted.	Sacrament of the Sick and anointing with oil. Life is sacred: abortion and contraceptive use prohibited. Believe embryos are human beings and should not be destroyed or used for research.	Bible is holy book. Rite of Holy Eucharist (Communion) important. May use prayer books, crucifix, rosary beads, religious medals, pictures and statues of saints. Confession used as a rite for forgiveness of sins. Use cross as symbol.
<b>Russian Orthodox *(Christian)</b>	Infant baptism by priest.	Last rites by ordained priest mandatory. Arms of deceased are crossed. Autopsy only if required by law. Organ donations not encouraged. Cremation prohibited.	Holy Unction and anointing body with oil used for healing. Will accept most medical treatments but believe in divine healing.	Bible is holy book. Rite of Communion important. May wear a cross neclakce that should not be removed unless absolutely necessary. Use cross as symbol.
<b>Seventh Day Adventists *(Christian)</b>	No infant baptism (baptize individuals when they reach the age of accountability.)	No last rites. Autopsy only when required by law. Organ donation is an individual decision.	May avoid over the counter medications and caffiene. May anoint body with oil . Use prayer for healing. Some believe only in divine healing. Will accept required immunizations.	Literal acceptance of Holy Bible. Rite of Communion important. Sabbath worship is sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday.