

Jewish Funeral

Sources: <https://www.funeralwise.com/customs/jewish/>

- ☐ Jewish burials are to take place as soon as possible. Exceptions are made when the family cannot be present immediately and for other practical reasons.
- ☐ Jewish funerals emphasize simplicity to avoid embarrassment for the poor.
- ☐ It is traditional Jewish practice to perform a ritual washing of the body ("Tahara") and then to dress it in a plain burial shroud.
- ☐ Watchers ("Chevra Kadisha") remain with the body around-the-clock until the funeral.

Funeral

- ☐ Funeral is usually held in a synagogue or funeral home the day after the death. There is no visitation by friends in the presence of the body before the funeral.
- ☐ The body is placed in a simple wood coffin so as not to disturb its natural decomposition.
- ☐ An open casket or cremation is not accepted in the Jewish tradition. ☐ Male guests are expected to wear a jacket and tie with a yarmulke as a head covering, which is available at the funeral home or synagogue.
- ☐ Women wear conservative apparel, a skirt or dress of somber colors, but they are not expected to wear a head covering. They should dress modestly – nothing revealing – no short skirts, short sleeves or open-toed shoes.



Mourning Period

- ☐ The initial mourning period lasts seven days and is called Shiva (Hebrew for seven).
- ☐ During this time, it is appropriate to visit the home of the bereaved. ☐ The family may practice traditions that may include: covering mirrors; burning memorial candles; or wearing the black ribbon that was cut.
- ☐ Men do not shave, women do not wear makeup, and couples refrain from intimacy.
- ☐ This break from daily routine symbolizes the disruption that death has brought to their lives and demonstrates grief through self-sacrifice.

FTC Funeral Rules

Summary of your rights under The Funeral Rule:

- Buy only the funeral arrangements you want.
- Get price information over the telephone.
- Get a written, itemized price list when you visit a funeral home.
- See a written casket price list before you see the actual caskets.
- See a written outer burial container price list.
- Receive a written statement after you decide what you want and before you pay.
- Get an explanation in the written statement that describes any legal cemetery or crematory rules that require you to buy specific funeral goods or services.
- Use an “alternative container” instead of a casket for cremation.
- Provide the funeral home with a casket or urn you buy elsewhere.
- Make funeral arrangements without embalming.