

**A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WOULD SPARE YOUR
FAMILY AGGRAVATION AND EXPENDITURE OF TIME AND MONEY
And Provide That Your True Wishes Be Honored After You Pass Away**

THE RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA

recommends that you read this, sign below, and give it to a close relative or to whomever else you think might be useful.

I desire that, promptly, after I die, my funeral be conducted in accordance with Jewish law and tradition, as set forth in the Jewish Funeral Guide below.

I ask that Rabbi _____
of _____
be in charge of my funeral if he is available.

(signed) _____

JEWISH FUNERAL GUIDE

Jewish law and tradition have endowed the funeral with profound religious significance.

A Jewish funeral should in every respect express the dignity, sanctity and modesty of a solemn religious service.

The following Guide lists the basic requirements of a Jewish funeral.

- Any ostentation should be avoided, i.e., family and visitors should reflect in dress and behavior the solemnity of the occasion. Flowers and music have no place at the Jewish funeral service.
- Embalming and viewing are contrary to Jewish law.
- Interment should not be unduly delayed.

Prepared by the Tripartite Funeral Standards Committee of the Rabbinical Council of America, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, and the Jewish Funeral Directors of America.

**JEWISH RELIGIOUS LAW
REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING...**

TAHARAH / PURIFICATION

The ritual washing and purification of the deceased by members of the Chevra Kadisha, "The Sacred Society," or, in its absence, by religiously and physically competent Jewish persons.

SHMEERAH / WATCHING

The watching over the deceased by a pious Jew or Jewess until members of the family assemble for the funeral services, so that the deceased is not left unattended.

TACHRICHIM / BURIAL GARMENTS

The traditional white burial shrouds symbolizing that all are equal before their Creator.

ORON / CASKET

The wooden casket, in keeping with the Biblical teaching, "dust art thou and to the dust thou shalt return."

K'REEAH / TEARING OF GARMENTS

The rending of the mourners' outer garments, a symbol of their anguish and grief.

K'VURAH / BURIAL

The actual burial in the ground; filling in the grave with earth until a mound is formed. To participate in filling the grave is a religious privilege and duty. Kaddish cannot be recited at the open grave-side.

Additional copies may be obtained, in reasonable quantities, free of charge, from Harry & Jane Fischel Foundation, by sending a postal card or a letter to Room 1711, 310 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017, or telephoning (212) 370-0515. The Foundation is paying for this material as a public service, memorializing Harry Fischel and Jane Fischel of Blessed Memory.