

When A Loved One Dies – Things To Consider

Below is a checklist of steps you may take after a loved one dies. More information about Jewish rituals, resources, including our list of funeral homes, can be found on our website: www.nertamid.org/lifecycle

Please know that there will sometimes be cases that don't neatly fit into the items on this list (for example, if your loved one chooses cremation or follows another faith). We are always available to work with you to tailor these suggestions to your specific circumstances.

Immediately Following A Death:

- Your first call after a loved one dies should be to a funeral home. They will to arrange for someone to transport your loved one and will arrange a time for you to meet with the funeral director about details such as picking a casket and the date of the funeral.
 - Jewish Memorial Chapel (841 Allwood Rd, Clifton, NJ 07012)
 - J L Apter Jewish Memorial Chapel (486 Pompton Ave, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009)
 - Bernheim-Apter-Kreitzman Suburban Funeral Chapel (68 Old Short Hills Rd, Livingston, NJ 07039)
- If it is important for you that our clergy officiate the funeral, please contact Rabbi Marc Katz before booking the date and time for the funeral:
 - If during business hours, call Temple Ner Tamid (973-338-1500) and ask to speak to Rabbi Marc Katz.
 - If you cannot get through or you are calling after business hours, please try Rabbi Marc Katz's cell phone, 401-323-1532.
- If you have many out of town guests who will be coming in for the funeral, you may want to notify them right away to begin to get a sense of the timing of the funeral.
- Make a list of other family, friends, and employees who should be notified. Consider delegating that list to someone else to make the calls. In some cases, this list may include lawyers, the Veterans association, insurance carriers, and financial consultants, though these can often be done after the funeral is over.
- Prepare a death notice and obituary with the funeral director.
- Fill out any needed paperwork through the doctor.
- Locate necessary documents such as wills, directives and if possible the Family Information Form and Checklist (available on our website).

Funeral And Burial Arrangements:

- Determine dates of shiva, the time of shiva minyanim, and other details and contact Rabbi Marc Katz with that information.
- Confirm funeral and burial arrangements with Rabbi Marc Katz and the funeral home. Would you like the funeral service at Temple Ner Tamid, graveside, or at the funeral home? Make sure to assess whether the space for the funeral is sufficient for the number of guests.
- If your loved one has important ritual items like a *tallit* decide if you would like to keep it as an heirloom or have them buried with them.

- Decide who will officiate at the funeral and who will give the eulogies and remembrances. Also decide if you want pallbearers (usually 4-6).
- The following details are usually owned by the funeral home, but you may want to confirm they are taking care them if you want any of these:
 - Limo or car to the funeral and cemetery
 - Low chair for shiva
 - Death notices
 - 7-day candle
 - Black ribbons for wearing at funeral and shiva
 - Cemetery permit
 - Direction cards to cemetery
- Find a babysitter or adult who can leave the funeral service with a child if the need arises.
- Make sure everyone has the address to cemetery and shiva house.
- Find someone to stay at the house during the funeral and burial to get things ready for post-burial shiva.
- Designate charitable organizations that you may want to consider contributing to in honor of your loved one, which you can include on death announcements. We hope you will consider Temple Ner Tamid.

During The Shiva:

- The Temple Ner Tamid Chesed committee will arrange for members to provide a platter for your shiva.
- If you choose, place a basin of water outside of house for hand washing
- If you choose, cover mirrors as a sign of disinterest in vanity during this time.
- Find a friend who can schedule meal preparation / delivery for the family during the days they are sitting shiva. We have found that “meal train” is a good online tool for this.
- Although you are under no obligation to offer anything to your visitors, if you would like additional help in planning your shiva, including suggestions of food or extra hands in doing set-up, please ask Rabbi Marc Katz for a supplemental shiva checklist.

After The Shiva:

- If it brings you comfort, consider ordering a memorial plaque for our loved one to be displayed in the TNT sanctuary.
- If your loved one was buried, begin thinking about a date for an unveiling and what you would like written on the tombstone.

The Temple Ner Tamid community is here to support you and your family during this difficult time. If you need anything, please reach out to our office and we will ensure you are supported: hello@nertamid.org or 973-338-1500.