



THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

When Someone Dies: How to Arrange a Funeral through The LJS

The death of a close relative, friend or partner can be devastating. The Rabbis of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue and its Funeral Directors are available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to help you with the practical aspects of arranging a funeral and to support you emotionally and spiritually through the period following a death.

For information relating to caring for a dying relative or friend and guidance to the rituals and observances that follow the death of someone close to you, please consult the booklet *On Death and Mourning* by Rabbi Alexandra Wright which can be found on The LJS's website or from The LJS Funerals Co-ordinator.

This short leaflet relates to the practical aspects of arranging a funeral and *shivah* through The LJS.

The LJS arranges funerals for its Members and Friends (often non-Jewish partners of members). In addition, we serve the wider Jewish community, individuals who are not members of any synagogue. More details can be obtained from our Funerals Co-ordinator.



When Someone Dies

The shock of death, whether expected or sudden, can be a bewildering and frightening experience. The LJS and its Funeral Directors will help with the practical aspects of fulfilling the civil requirements and registration and arranging a funeral.

When someone dies in a hospital or hospice, the first call should be to The LJS Funerals Co-ordinator during office hours. If someone dies at home, please contact the GP and then The LJS or Funeral Director. The LJS's Funerals Co-ordinator will guide you through the steps of obtaining a medical certificate from a GP or hospital doctor, cremation papers if necessary and the registration of a death in the local Register Office. In some cases, a death will need to be reported to a Coroner. The LJS Funerals Co-ordinator or the Funeral Director will help you through each stage of this process.

Judaism for Today and Tomorrow

A constituent of Liberal Judaism

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue is a company limited by guarantee (Company No. 9113305)

and a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity No. 1159292)

Registered office: 28 St John's Wood Road, London, NW8 7HA

Members and Friends of The LJS

“As in life, not separated in death”

Members and Friends of The LJS are entitled to a burial in The Liberal Jewish Cemetery in Willesden. The LJS does not have a burial scheme into which members pay a regular contribution, but costs for a funeral (burial or cremation) will include the following:

- Collection of the deceased by the Funeral Director
- *Taharah* – preparation of the body for burial or cremation.
- Provision of a simple wooden coffin in accordance with Jewish tradition
- A plot in The LJS Cemetery
- An LJS Rabbi to conduct a burial or cremation
- Arrangements for prayers at the first night of *Shivah*
- An LJS Rabbi to conduct a service for the interment of ashes
- An LJS Rabbi to conduct a service at the consecration of a stone
- Practical advice and support
- Bereavement support through our bereavement support team in the year following the death of a close relative

There are a small number of additional funeral costs that are not covered in the list above, including out of hours collection of the deceased, cars for the mourners if required, reservations of plots for additional family members, headstones, memorial services, erection of plaques and planting of rose bushes.

Members who join The LJS over the age of 65

Members and Friends who join the synagogue over the age of 65 are subject to increased, but progressively diminishing, costs during their first eight years of membership. Please speak to the Funerals Co-ordinator for more details.

Non-Members of The LJS

The LJS will provide funeral and *shivah* arrangements for non-members of the synagogue. A Liberal Jewish funeral – whether a burial in the synagogue’s cemetery in Willesden or a cremation which is usually arranged at the Golders Green Crematorium, but can be elsewhere at the request of mourners – is a respectful and sensitive way to say farewell to someone who was not affiliated to a synagogue.

There are higher costs for burial and cremation; however there is no difference in the way that Members, Friends or non-members are treated. All receive the same high standard of care and attention. More details can be obtained from the Funerals Co-ordinator at The LJS.

After the Funeral

Consecrations and Interments

Following the funeral, whether a burial or a cremation, details of authorised stonemasons and interment of the ashes at the cemetery can be discussed and arranged with The LJS Funerals Co-ordinator. A service is usually arranged to consecrate the stone in memory of the deceased.

Yahrzeits

It is a comforting custom to hear the name of a family member who has died read out each year following the anniversary of a death. Members and friends are invited by letter to attend the *Shabbat* morning service and to join the community reciting the *Kaddish* (Mourner's Prayer) as the names of those commemorated are read aloud.

Grave Maintenance

The LJS runs a grave maintenance scheme, which ensures graves and headstones are checked and regularly maintained. Where stones have become weathered over the years it may be possible to renovate these prior to being put under a maintenance contract.



For More Information:

More information, including provisional funeral charges, is available on request by contacting The LJS Funerals Co-ordinator:

The LJS Funerals Co-ordinator:

Jo-Anne Winston
Tel: 020 7432 1298
Email: synagogue@ljs.org

The LJS Main Switchboard:

020 7286 5181

The LJS Office Hours:

Mondays - Thursdays: 9am - 5pm
Fridays: 9am - 3pm

If you are calling to report a death out of office hours, or on public holidays and Jewish Festivals, please call The LJS's designated Funeral Director, Calo's on 020 8958 2112.

The Liberal Jewish Cemetery

Pound Lane, Willesden, London, NW10 2HG

Tel: 020 8459 1635

The LJS owns its own cemetery, which has been in existence since 1913. Originally it was the only Liberal Jewish cemetery in London, and is currently the only working Jewish cemetery still located in Central London. Surrounded by a park on one side and the Orthodox cemetery, it is a peaceful and intimate space. It is kept in beautiful condition by friendly and caring staff who are always on hand to answer questions and to offer quiet support to bereaved visitors.



How to Find The LJS Cemetery

The LJS Cemetery is accessible by public transport and there is on-site parking available. The two nearest Tube stations are Willesden Green and Dollis Hill, both of which are on the Jubilee Line. The cemetery is a 10 minute walk from either of these stations, or there is a taxi service available from Willesden Green station.

Opening Times

The cemetery is open Sunday-Friday from 9am until 4:30pm (earlier closing in winter and Sundays and Fridays). It is closed on *Shabbatot*, Jewish festivals and 25th December.