

THE DAY OF THE BURIAL

Funeral services may be held in the synagogue, the funeral home, or at the graveside. This is one of the most important decisions to be made after a death takes place and will be made in consultation with family and the clergy.

Other customs and considerations for the day of the burial:

- **Kria (rending the garment)**: Next of kin participates in *kria* prior to the funeral service. The garment to be torn is an item of daily clothing or a ribbon affixed to the clothing. The torn garment or ribbon is worn either seven or thirty days, except on the Sabbath.
- **Pallbearers**: Pallbearers are chosen from among family and friends and accompany the casket and assist at the grave. This is an honor and a personal tribute to the deceased. Some lifting is required.
- **Viewing**: Viewing the body is contrary to Jewish tradition's emphasis on *Kavod HaMet* (honoring the dead).
- **Kaddish**: This prayer is recited for the first time after the burial. It should not be said if the family attends synagogue services between the death and burial.
- **Hand Washing**: It is customary for those who go to the cemetery to wash their hands after leaving the cemetery. Some cemeteries provide washing bowls, more often it is necessary for these to be provided at the shiva house.