

## THE DAY OF THE BURIAL

Funeral services may be held in the synagogue, at the funeral home, at the cemetery's facility, or graveside.

Customs and considerations for the day of the burial:

**Kria:** Next of kin participate in this mourning ritual involving rending garments, or more commonly wearing a black ribbon, as a symbolic expression of grief and loss. It is a custom usually observed by a spouse, child, parent or sibling of the deceased. It is worn for either seven or thirty days, except on the Sabbath.

**Pallbearers:** Pallbearers are chosen from among family and friends to accompany the casket and assist at the grave. This is an honor and a personal tribute to the deceased. Some lifting may be required but is not necessary.

**Viewing:** Traditional Jewish practice discourages a viewing of the body before or during the funeral service as it is contrary to the emphasis on Kavod HaMet (honoring the dead).

**Kaddish:** This prayer is recited for the first time after the burial. It should not be said at any time between the death and burial.

**Hand Washing:** It is customary for those who go to the cemetery to wash their hands before returning home. This practice is not for hygiene purposes, but rather to symbolically cleanse oneself of the impurity associated with death and the cemetery. The ritual involves pouring water over each hand three times, alternating between the right and left, and then allowing the hands to air dry. Some cemeteries provide washing bowls; they are often provided at the shiva house as well.