

THE DEATH OF A JEWISH LOVED ONE: A TIMELINE

As death approaches	Contact Clergy to visit to recite VIDDUI (Confessional Prayer). This is a chance to say your goodbyes to your loved, together with close family members Recitation of SHEMA just before or after death
Immediately upon death	Prayer upon death: Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech HaOlam, Dayan HaEmet (The True Judge). Contact hospice (if applicable), close family members , Clergy , funeral home , cemetery (if plot not previously purchased)
Circle of Seven	Traditional Mourners are Spouse, Son, Daughter, Sister, Brother, Mother and Father Progressive Judaism expands to Grandchildren, Grandparents, close friends and relatives
Preparation for Funeral	Tahara – Ritual preparation of body (<i>Met</i>) by Chevra Kaddisha (wash, ritually cleanse, place in shroud, place in coffin (<i>Aron</i>)) (<i>optional</i>) Shomer – Person who recites Psalms over Met (<i>optional</i>) Obituary and Eulogies Contact other friends and relatives
Funeral	Clergy (close family will meet prior to Funeral to plan) Determination to have Service at TS and/or at gravesite Select Pallbearers (actual and honorary) Includes Psalms, music, eulogies, El Malei Rachamim, Kaddish Meal of Consolation (Keshet will provide for immediate family, if desired, with supplement from family)
Shiva	One or more opportunities for visitation to house of mourning (up to 7 days, but not Shabbat or holidays) Shiva Service – brief Service in home concluding with Kaddish Food – It's a blessing to share food and tell stories about our loved one (let a friend/relative take the lead)
Jewish Rituals after death	During Shiva (7 days) Yahrzeit Candle – Lit when returning from funeral, should remain lit throughout Shiva Crea – Ripping black clothing (wear torn ribbon) Covering mirrors Pitcher of water, bowl, towels at front door Refrain from work and entertainment During Shloshim (30 days) Refrain from haircuts, shaving, grooming Refrain from parties Return to work During First 11 months Daily recitation of Kaddish after funeral with Minyan Return to celebrating Simchas
Unveiling of headstone	11 months after funeral – ends official mourning period
Yahrzeit	Anniversary of Death – recite Kaddish – English/Hebrew date
Yizkor	“Remembrance” – Service 4 times per year on Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret, Passover and Shavuot