



GUIDELINES WHEN A JEWISH PERSON IS TO BE BURIED IN A JEWISH CEMETERY

When a Jewish person dies in a hospital or care facility and is to be buried in Ottawa -

1. All tubes, etc. should be removed and the body covered with a sheet. If family are present, check with them when they are ready for this to be done.
2. The body should not to be washed. It should be placed directly in a regular plastic body bag ready to be sent to the morgue. The body will be washed at the Jewish Memorial Chapel located at 1771 Cuba Avenue, then dressed according to Jewish tradition.
3. Once any family present are ready and the doctor has signed the Death Certificate, the deceased should be transferred to the morgue. The body will remain in the morgue until a Funeral Home comes to collect it and take it to the Jewish Memorial Chapel. If present, the family should be given a copy of the Death Certificate for them to provide to the Funeral Home. If no family is present the hospital's or care facility's normal procedures for getting a Death Certificate to the next of kin should be followed.
4. The family, whether in person or by telephone, should be advised to immediately call Jewish Memorial Gardens (JMG) at 613-688-3530. This call may be placed day or night. Select 'Option 1" to speak directly to the Executive Director or Alternate. If the phone is not answered, a message should be left with
 - the name of the deceased**
 - the date and time of death**
 - the name and phone number of the next of kin.**

The next of kin will receive a call back from the Executive Director or Alternate.

Note: If the death occurs during the Jewish Sabbath (between Friday sundown and Saturday sundown) or on a Jewish Holiday, the next of kin should be told to leave a message with the same information as above. They should be advised that the Executive Director or Alternate will get back to them after the end of the Sabbath or Jewish Holiday.

5. Once the family has made contact or a message left, the Executive Director or Alternate will manage the process from this point on: make the arrangements for the funeral, liaise with the Rabbi, contact the Funeral Home to pick up the body from the hospital and transfer it to the Jewish Memorial Chapel for the Ottawa Chevra (Khev-Rah) Kadisha (The Jewish Burial Society) to wash and take care of the body Jewishly
6. If the family wishes to speak to a Rabbi while they are still at the facility, this can be arranged by either asking the Chaplain to contact a Rabbi or the family may contact a Rabbi directly.

Note: If the death occurs during the Sabbath or Jewish Holiday, besides the family being advised to leave a message for the Executive Director or Alternate of Jewish Memorial Gardens, they should also be told to call a Funeral Home directly to ask for the body be collected. If arrangements have been previously made for a specific Funeral Home, they should call that home, if not, below is a list of some funeral homes in Ottawa that Jewish families have used in the past:

- Basic Funerals – 1-877-229-7077
- Funeral Co-operative of Ottawa – 613-288-2689
- Hulse, Playfair & McGarry Funeral Home – 613-233-1143
- Kelly’s Funeral Home – 613-828-2313
- Tubman Funeral Home – 613-722-6559

There are two Jewish cemeteries in Ottawa, one on Bank Street and one at Osgoode, where Jewish deceased are buried. For burial in either cemetery, the processes described above need to be followed.

Other Useful Information -

- **Out of Town Jewish Burials** - The process is essentially the same although the organizations to be contacted may be different. It is not unusual for an Ottawa Funeral Home to pick up the body prior to transfer to the city of burial.
- **Request for Shomer** - If the family asks to have a Shomer (Show-mare) – (a person who sits with the deceased), the Shomer is not allowed at the hospital or care facility. Advise the family that once the deceased is transferred to the Jewish Memorial Chapel, the Shomer (Show-mare) will be there to sit with them. The family must advise the Executive Director or Alternate when they call, if they wish to have a Shomer.
- **Family has No Money to Pay for the Funeral** – The family should be told to contact the City of Ottawa directly for financial assistance. They will have to make an application. The Jewish Memorial Gardens does NOT apply on the family’s behalf. The family should call 613 580.2424 and Press for the language of their choice. Then choose ‘Option 4’ for “Community & Social Services”. The family will need to provide the name of the Executor/Executrix, the Social Insurance Number of the deceased and the Bank Account information.
- **Miscarriages / Still Born** – Do not dispose of the remains. The remains are to be left at the morgue until Jewish Memorial Gardens or the Ottawa Chevra (Khev-Rah) Kadisha collects them. The family will need to make to call to Jewish Memorial Gardens to make the arrangements.
- **Request Cremation or Not Having a Jewish Burial** – Cremation is not available in Ottawa for Jewish deceased. If there is to be cremation in Ottawa, the practices for burial in a Jewish Cemetery do not apply. If the family are planning a non-Jewish burial the practices for Jewish Burial do not apply. In both instances, the family should make their own arrangements. If there is to be a cremation or non-Jewish burial out of town, the family will need to look into the processes with the involved organizations.