



“Now What?” – What to Do When a Loved One Dies

Things to Do Right Away

Notify Machar: Contact Machar as soon as possible. Rabbi Jeremy’s contact information is below, and they are available to help make funeral arrangements or other memorial plans, and can accompany you to a meeting with a funeral home.

Contact a Funeral Home: Machar is a member of the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington (<https://www.jewishfuneralsdc.org>).

- The Committee has arranged a Jewish funeral package with Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home in D.C. and Maryland, and with Cunningham Turch Funeral Home and Northern Virginia Jewish Funerals in Virginia.
- To access the package’s special rates, simply mention “Jewish Funeral Package” when contacting the funeral home. The package provides lower costs than other DC-area funeral homes for the same services.
- The funeral homes’ staffs are familiar with traditional Jewish funeral practices, and are flexible when it comes to meeting families’ needs. (For details, see <https://www.jewishfuneralsdc.org/our-contracts-explained>.)

Gather Information: Prepare basic information about the deceased (full name, date of birth, Hebrew name if known) for funeral and burial arrangements.

Jewish Rituals and Practices to Consider

Shmira (guarding) and tahara (ritual washing) of the deceased: These traditional practices are available and can be arranged with the funeral home. Rabbi Jeremy can talk through these options with you.

Memorial ribbons and candles: most funeral homes provide these; Rabbi Jeremy can help with placing and tearing the ribbons (*keri’a*)

Kavod ha-met (honoring the deceased), hesped (eulogies), and shiva (initial mourning period): Jewish tradition emphasizes respect for the deceased. Rabbi Jeremy can help with planning a funeral, provide guidance on eulogies, and assist in other plans like shiva arrangements.

How Do I Talk to the Rabbi?

Rabbi Jeremy: 301-708-9675 (cell/text messages); rabbi@machar.org (email)