



Liverpool Reform Synagogue

**Guidance following the death
of a member of the Liverpool
Reform Synagogue**

In the first instance please contact:

Liverpool Reform Synagogue
07729 562 174

Procedure

- 1.** In the event of a death, a Death Certificate is issued to confirm the cause of death.
- 2.** The Death Certificate will be issued by either the deceased person's GP or, if the death occurs in hospital, by a doctor at the hospital.
- 3.** If the death occurs at a hospital it is important to inform hospital staff that the deceased person is of the Jewish faith to avoid any possible delay in issuing the Death Certificate.
- 4.** Once the Death Certificate has been issued, contact David Barrington at Barrington Funeral Directors on 0151 928 1625.
- 5.** Should it be family wishes for the deceased person to receive Taharah, Mr Barrington will organise for the body to be taken to Stapeley. (Please note that, until Liverpool Reform Synagogue has its own Chevra Kadisha, Taharah can only be performed on those persons recognised under Orthodox Jewish Law).
- 6.** Once the Death Certificate has been issued this must be taken to the City Registrars Department, which is currently located at St Georges Hall.
- 7.** The Registrar will issue 3 documents:
 - a) Green Certificate (Register Certificate of burial/cremation) this allows for the deceased person to be moved if the death occurs in hospital. If a death occurs over a weekend in a hospital the movement of a body can be difficult.
 - b) Death Certificate (it is recommended that you obtain several copies)
 - c) White document (confirmation of registered death). This is for any benefits associated with the Dept of Work and Pensions.
- 8.** If a totally unexpected death occurs, there may be a need for a post-mortem/inquest which usually takes 10 -12 days to occur. However, this need not cause delay in the event of a burial (on the grounds of a religious funeral) but may do in the event of a cremation.
- 9.** If the last point of contact with a doctor is within 24hrs of a death, a coroner will need to be involved. However, this does not necessarily mean a post-mortem is required.
- 10.** If a person has been treated/seen by a doctor within 14 days of a death occurring and the death is directly related to the reason that person has been seen by the doctor, a coroner will be notified and if the coroner is satisfied that the cause of death is directly related to the illness the person is being treated for, this should not result in any delay in a Death Certificate being issued.

Facilities within Liverpool Reform Synagogue

- 1.** No facility exists for 'same day' burial.
- 2.** The facility for 'next day' burial is available, however, Liverpool Cemeteries Department needs to be notified no later than 10.00am on the day before the funeral. Contact telephone number is 0151 233 3004.
- 3.** All the relevant statutory paperwork (including the Registrar's Green Certificate or Coroners Order and Liverpool City Council's own Interment form) must be received no later than 12pm on the day before the burial. Again for Sunday or Bank Holiday burials, this must be received on the preceding Friday by no later than 12pm. It is important to note that given reduced timescales, accurate coffin size should be communicated verbally to the Cemeteries Office at the earliest opportunity. These should be included on the interment form.
- 4.** In the event of a weekend/Bank Holiday burial taking place, an enhanced fee will also be applied in accordance with Liverpool City Council's published fees and charges (see fees below). In effect this means an additional 100% surcharge on the current fee for a Sunday/Bank Holiday burial.
- 5.** Those families, who wish to backfill a grave following burial in accordance with Jewish custom, should note that backfilling the entire grave may prevent Ground Maintenance staff from removing the grave shoring. In this instance the loss of this shoring would be added to the cost of the interment. To avoid this additional cost, it is suggested that backfilling the grave ceases once the level of the shoring has been reached.
- 6.** As stated, the preferred undertaker for Liverpool Reform Synagogue is Barringtons telephone number 0151 928 1624
- 7.** Barringtons will need to know the following information:
 - a) That it is a Jewish burial
 - b) Day/Date and time of the burial
 - c) First and last name of the deceased person
 - d) Age
 - e) Address of the deceased person
 - f) Does the family wish for the deceased person to be moved to Stapley (for Taharah) prior to burial

It is recommended that following the burial you obtain a yellow 'Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial' document. This document confirms ownership of the graves and allows for the surviving family to maintain the grave and headstone. This document is obtained from the main cemeteries office at The Lodge, Springwood Cemetery

Charges/Fees

The charges listed below are for guidance only and are subject to changes (correct as of June 2017).

1. Exclusive Rights of Burial for 75 years

(Inclusive of Rights to Erect New Memorials where applicable)

- **Full size grave:**
£990 (City Residents)
£1,980 (Non residents)
- **Cremated Remains:**
£613 (City Residents)
£1,226 (Non residents)
- **Woodland Burial:**
£757 (City Residents)
£1,514 (Non Residents)
- **Transfer Right of Burial/Forms of Indemnity: £66**

2. Interments

(Inclusive of removal of existing headstone and additional inscription fee where applicable)

- **Any Internment within a Full Size Grave:**
£814 (City Residents)
£1,628 (Non Residents)
- **Any Internment of Cremated Remains:**
£251 (City Residents)
£502 (Non Residents)
- **Child up to 16 years:**
No charge (City Residents)
No charge (Non Residents)
- **Burial in Allerton Cemetery Woodland: £668**
- **Sat Internment fee + 50%**
- **Sun Internment fee + 100%**

3. Additional Charges

- Coffin/Casket above 6' 6" x 26": **£99**
- Removal of headstone: **£77**
- Jewish Division concrete slab: **£279**
- Standby fee: **£88**
- Use of Crematorium Chapel: **£66**

Customs/Practice

1. At the death

- Traditionally one does not leave the person alone
- Often we cover the face of the deceased person and the Shema is recited on behalf of the deceased person.

2. At the burial

- Traditionally, very simple coffins are used.
- Taharah – the ritual cleansing will have occurred before burial, should this be the wish of the family.
- Males are buried with their tallit and kippur.
- Flowers are discouraged
- Once the coffin has been lowered, the immediate family are invited to shovel earth onto the coffin. Once family members have placed soil on the coffin, relatives, friends and then others attending are invited to fill the grave (this includes men and women). The back of the shovel is usually used.
- On leaving the cemetery one should wash your hands, a tap is available for this purpose at the bottom left hand corner of the path.
- All those attending the funeral traditionally give a small charity donation.
- Cremation is accepted within Reform Judaism.
- It is tradition that prayer books may be included at the time of burial. Therefore, should the family of the deceased have prayer books they wish to dispose of, they may be buried with the deceased.

3. At the Shivah

- Candles are lit and should face east, towards Jerusalem.
- Mirrors and TVs are traditionally covered with a white cloth.
- On return from the cemetery, a mourners' table is laid out for the immediate family. This consists of a bagel, chopped herring, hard-boiled egg, a small dish of salt water and a tot of whisky.
- Someone who is not a mourner prepares this meal.
- A memorial candle is lit in the mourners' home before/on return from the cemetery by the closest relative of the deceased.
- Mourners will normally sit on a low chair during the period of the Shivah.
- The Shivah period is for 7 days but some families choose to observe between 1 and 7 days Shivah (excluding Shabbat & Yomim Tovim) either at home or at the Synagogue's Hall (should the family wish to utilise the facilities at the Synagogue's Hall directly after the interment ceremony, this can be organised at a reasonable cost).

4. Stone Setting

- The setting of the head stone can occur after 30 days of mourning, but usually between 6 to 12 months following the funeral.
- It is up to the family to arrange this but the Rabbi will always assist with the wording for the headstone.
- It is entirely up to the family whether the stone setting ceremony is a private family ceremony or for friends and members of the community.
- Should the family wish, a memorial plaque could be unveiled at Liverpool Reform Synagogue following the stone setting or at a later date.
- It is tradition to place a pebble or small stone on the grave after the memorial stone is laid and each occasion when the grave is visited.

Mixed Faith Burials

If you would like information about mixed faith burials, please contact Liverpool Reform Synagogue on 07729 562 174.



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