

התאחדות עולי אמריקה קנדה בישראל ע.ר.  
Serving the English-Speaking Community in Israel



# On the Death of a Loved One

AACI's Guide to Burial and Funeral Practices in Israel

A Publication of the Mutual Aid Society of the AACI

אגודת אחים לעזרה הדדית

# Introduction

Life in Israel abounds with loving, joyous life-cycle events, moments that are etched in our memories as filled with blessings. Sometimes, however, the unexpected happens, and joy gives way to grief when a death occurs in the family circle.

***On the Death of a Loved One: AACI's Guide to Burial and Funeral Practices in Israel*** describes the practical aspects of burying a loved one in Israel. From obtaining a burial plot to notifying your bank, this booklet will walk you through the steps you'll take on this path. It will help you understand the difference between a *hoda'at p'tira* הודעת פטירה (medical death certificate) and a *teudat p'tira* תעודת פטירה (official death certificate). It will suggest which government agencies to contact, the identifying papers to present, and recommend which financial institutions to notify.

For over 60 years AACI has been serving the needs of the English-speaking community in Israel, offering information and advice on all aspects of their aliyah and klitah experience. We view the information presented here as one of AACI's many resources for English-speakers in Israel, one that will make this painful, traumatic period less stressful.

In the first brochure, printed in 1997, the author, Rabbi Jay Karzen, gratefully acknowledged the valuable assistance of Rabbis Yitzhak Fraylich and David Greiniman z"l of the Eretz HaChaim Cemetery administration for their expertise and knowledge in assuring the accuracy of the material presented. This, the 3rd edition, has been researched and updated by the professional team of AACI's Klitah Services department – Josie Arbel, Director, and counselors Sheila Bauman, Yanina Musnikow, and Miriam Green. We particularly appreciate the valuable editorial assistance of AACI National President Julian Landau.

With this current publication, we have gathered in one place the information we have dispensed for many years that anticipates your needs in making the necessary funeral and burial arrangements for your loved one.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Jay Karzen

Chairman, AACI Cemetery and Bereavement Committee

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# Arranging Burial

## ***Medical/Death Certificate (Hoda'at P'tira - הודעת פטירה)***

A medical certificate must be issued confirming that a death has indeed occurred. A qualified doctor must issue this *hoda'at p'tira*. If the death occurs in a hospital, it is standard procedure for the attending physician to prepare this document.

If the Magen David Adom (MDA - מד"א) is summoned to the home and the death occurs there, the MDA staff doctor will issue this required certificate.

If a death occurs at home or elsewhere and there is no need to call MDA, call your personal physician who must be summoned to pronounce the death and issue the necessary death certificate.

## ***Burial Permit (Rishayon Kevura - רישיון קבורה)***

A burial permit is required for all burials. This license—*rishayon kevura* is obtained from *Misrad HaBriyut* משרד הבריאות (Ministry of Health). You must bring the *hoda'at p'tira* (medical certificate certifying the death) and the *teudat zehut* תעודת זהות (identity card) of the deceased to receive the *rishayon kevura*. As you must give *Misrad HaBriyut* the original documents, make photocopies for your records before relinquishing them. *Misrad HaBriyut* will notify *Misrad HaPnim* משרד הפנים (Ministry of Interior) of the death. *Misrad HaBriyut* will then issue the official burial permit, which must be presented to the *Chevra Kadisha* חברה קדישא (Jewish Burial Society). Without this permit the burial cannot take place. If you have already contacted your local *Chevra Kadisha*, the *Chevra Kadisha* can arrange with *Misrad HaBriyut* for the burial permit without the involvement of the family. This is a valuable and time-saving service and relieves the family of this detail during this emotional time.

If the deceased did not possess a *teudat zehut*, then a passport or *teudat oleh* תעודת עולה (immigration certificate) must be presented in its place.

If *Misrad HaBriyut* office is closed, the *Chevra Kadisha* will be able to make the necessary arrangements so that the burial may proceed without delay.

# Receiving or Buying a Burial Plot

## *Public Burials*

*Bituach Leumi* ביטוח לאומי (National Insurance Institute of Israel) covers the cost of burial of all Israeli citizens, including citizens who die outside of Israel.<sup>1\*</sup> This includes preparation of the body by the *Chevra Kadisha*, transportation of the body to a local public cemetery, the funeral service and a burial plot in a local public cemetery. *Bituach Leumi* pays the burial expenses directly to the *Chevra Kadisha* or to any other entity that is duly authorized to conduct burials which has signed an agreement with the *Bituach Leumi* in this matter. No payments will be collected from the family of the deceased at the time of the burial and related services.

The *Chevra Kadisha* will immediately assume all responsibility. They will handle the transfer of the remains in preparation for the ritual purification (*tahara*) טהרה. While it is traditional to have the burial as soon as possible following the death, in extenuating circumstances the family may wish to postpone the burial for 1-2 days to enable family to arrive from abroad. The *Chevra Kadisha* will accommodate this situation.

Be aware that the family has **no** input into the decision as to location of the grave site. The *Chevra Kadisha* assigns the graves. In the larger cemeteries, some locations are considered more desirable than others. Some areas, especially in Har HaMenuchet Cemetery in Jerusalem, are not easily located or accessible for handicapped visitors. Some cemeteries use multi-story burial structures called "komot."

A spouse can, after the death, purchase the adjoining grave from the *Chevra Kadisha* if it is available, or purchase a double grave before burial.

At the time of a death, if you have previously purchased burial plots in a specific cemetery, call the *Chevra Kadisha* or the cemetery's office to alert them of your need.

## *AACI Burial Plots*

The Association of American and Canadians in Israel (AACI), as a service to its members and for families of members still abroad, maintains major sections in two prestigious burial grounds. We recommend you purchase a plot at either cemetery in advance, by contacting Rabbi Jay Karzen, chairman of the AACI Cemetery and Bereavement Committee, by telephone at 02-563-1018 or AACI at 02-566-1181 (see additional contact information at the end of this booklet). The

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1. \* See Information on special situations affecting *Bituach Leumi* covering costs, page 14.

advantage of purchasing a grave while yet alive, and hopefully in good health, is that one may choose a specific plot and know that the family will never have to face the stress of making urgent arrangements and having to accept a grave site not chosen by the family. At both AACI burial sections you can purchase side-by-side graves for husband and wife.

If you have not made arrangements in advance, it is also possible to contact Rabbi Jay Karzen at the time of death.

### **AACI Plots in Eretz HaChaim Cemetery**

Eretz HaChaim Cemetery is a private cemetery located less than one half-hour from Jerusalem, just before Beit Shemesh, past the Shimshon Junction (off Shaar HaGai exit on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv Highway). The cost of the burial and graves here are not covered by *Bituach Leumi*, and graves are always available for sale in this beautiful, private cemetery.

At the time of death, if you already own a plot, contact the *Chevra Kadisha*: 02-999-7526 or 991-1446 to arrange funeral and burial. From overseas, dial 011-972-2-999-7526. The office of Eretz HaChaim is on the cemetery grounds in the chapel building. Once again, if you do not own a plot, at time of death you can purchase one by contacting Rabbi Karzen.

### **AACI Plots in Har HaMenuchot Cemetery, Jerusalem**

Har HaMenuchot Cemetery is the official municipal burial grounds of Jerusalem. The cemetery is in the Givat Shaul neighborhood.

At Har HaMenuchot there is an option available for a husband and wife to be buried in the same grave, at the cost of a single grave, with the ability to erect an appropriate gravestone (*Matzeva* – מצבה).

If a free grave is requested without an agreement for the surviving spouse to be buried in the same grave, the deceased is buried in a wall grave. Both the wall graves and the graves with two people are halachically approved.

At the time of death, if you already own a plot, contact the *Chevra Kadisha*: telephone 02-625-2281. From overseas, 011-972-2-625-2281. The office of Har HaMenuchot is at 1 Elyashar Street, at Jaffa Road across from Zion Square.

## ***Other Cemeteries/Burial Societies***

Be'er Sheva – Religious Council, Rechov HaTalmud 8A; POB 4495

Haifa – Rechov Herzl 63, POB 5555; Tel: 05-868-8000

Netanya – Rechov Petach Tikva 12; Tel: 09-833-3419/3476

Tel Aviv – Rechov Mohilver 33; Tel: 03-795-3600

For a further list of cemeteries and burial societies all over Israel, please see:

[genealogy.org.il/resources/burial-societies/](http://genealogy.org.il/resources/burial-societies/)

## ***Alternative Options***

### **Menucha Nechona**

Menucha Nechona is a non-profit organization that operates a number of alternative state civil cemeteries for people of all religions in Kfar Saba, Be'er Sheva, and Kiryat Tivon. The organization was founded to provide pluralistic burial ceremonies. It also provides information and legal help. The burials in these cemeteries are paid for by *Bituach Leumi* as stated above.

For information: Hebrew-language website [www.menucha-nechona.co.il/](http://www.menucha-nechona.co.il/)

Be'er Sheva—Tel: 08-623-3239 or 050-756-6563

Kfar Saba—Tel: 073-275-5777 or 050-339-5800

Kiryat Tivon—Tel: 052-690-6307

Givat Brenner—Tel: 03-951-2927 or 050-549-3100

You can also find alternative non-Orthodox options in cemeteries across the country.

Alichin Cemetery—Tel: 04-636-5839

Eilat Cemetery—Tel: 08-637-6135

Even Yehudah Cemetery—Tel: 09-899-7127

Ofakim Cemetery—Tel: 08-992-3073

Oranit Cemetery—Tel: 03-936-0432

Or Akiva Cemetery—Tel: 04-636-1054

### **Aley Shalechet**

Although cremation is not halachically permissible, the organization Aley Shalechet offers ritual services, advice, assistance with bureaucratic hurdles, and cremation services. To contact Aley Shalechet: <http://www.aleyshalechet.co.il/> or [info@aleyshalechet.co.il](mailto:info@aleyshalechet.co.il); Tel: 073-275-5750.

# ***Jewish Burial Customs in Israel and Other Helpful Information***

## **Laws and Customs**

Please note that coffins are usually not used in Israel except in military cemeteries. Following the preparation of the body (*Tahara* - ritual purification - טהרה) by the *Chevra Kadisha*, the deceased is wrapped in shrouds (*Tachrichim* - תכריכים) and placed on a pallet, appropriately draped.

One of the major religious requirements prior to the funeral service is the *kriyah* קריעה (rending of a garment). Mourners (parents, children, spouse and siblings) should be aware that their clothing will be cut and they will be guided in saying the appropriate blessing. Male children, at the loss of a parent, will tear their outer and under garment, i.e. jacket and shirt. Women will tear the collar of the dress or sweater. For other relatives, only the outer garment need be torn.

While the *Chevra Kadisha* officially presides at the funeral service (in the chapel and/or at graveside), the family may choose any Rabbi or family member/friend to eulogize. Recent laws have ensured that women can also eulogize a loved one at the funeral service regardless of where the funeral is held.

For the religious rules that apply from the moment of death until the funeral/burial (this period of time is called *Aninut* - אנינות) or for any laws and customs that prevail during the first week of mourning (*Shiva* – שיבעה), the 30-day mourning period (*Shloshim*) שלושים and the year of mourning (the period of *Avelut* אבילות) we advise you to consult your own rabbi. Rabbi Jay Karzen of AACI's Cemetery and Bereavement Committee is available to answer any questions you may have regarding any aspect of the year of mourning.

It is customary for mourners to recite the mourners *Kaddish* קדיש. Should you want someone to say *Kaddish* on your behalf, please contact AACI.

When visiting a house of *Shiva*, it is traditional to offer condolences to the mourners when taking leave of them. The official Hebrew condolence is:

הַפְּקוּם יִנְחֶם אֶתְכֶם בְּתוֹךְ שְׂאֵר אַבְלֵי צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם  
וְלֹא תוֹסִיפוּ לְדַאֲבָה עוֹד

*Hamakom Yinachem Etchem B'toch Sh'aar Aveley Tzion V'Yerushalayim*

*V'lo Toseefu L'da'ava Od*

May the Almighty comfort and console you  
among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem  
and may you know no more sorrow.

## **Death Announcements** (Moda'ot Evel - מודעות אבל)

It is customary to print death announcements and hang them near the *shiva* house and in public places to alert neighbors and friends of the death of a loved one. Many printing firms prepare and distribute these notifications in Hebrew and English.

### **Newspaper Death Notices**

To insert a paid death notice in an English-language newspaper, it is preferable to compose the exact text and send information via email as follows:

*The Jerusalem Post*

Email: [ad@jpost.com](mailto:ad@jpost.com). Telephone: 02-531-5689; Fax: 02-538-9527.

*Ha'aretz*

Email: [limors@haaretz.co.il](mailto:limors@haaretz.co.il). Telephone: 03-512-1112. Fax: 03-681-5859.

Office hours: 08:30 – 21:00.

### **Bus Transportation**

Bus companies can be hired to transport family and friends to and from the cemetery. The cost of a full 50-seater bus is approximately NIS 2000. If time permits, you can check with your local AACI branch for assistance in contacting a bus company near you.

### **Burial Arrangements after Untimely Termination of Pregnancy**

If, with sorrow, your pregnancy comes to an abrupt end, with a miscarriage, stillbirth or birth of a baby who does not survive, the Ministry of Health has put together a series of guidelines on the *Halachic* issues of burial and how the burial of the abortus, dead fetus or neonate will be handled. They can be accessed online at: [www.health.gov.il/English/Topics/Pregnancy/Pages/Loss\\_of\\_baby.aspx](http://www.health.gov.il/English/Topics/Pregnancy/Pages/Loss_of_baby.aspx).

### **The Gravestone (Matzeva)**

Customs vary as to when to erect the gravestone. It may be done any time after the week of *Shiva*. Many prefer to conduct a dedication/consecration ceremony of the new *Matzeva* in conjunction with the end of the 30-day *Shloshim* period. One need not wait until the end of the year of mourning (*Yahrzeit*) as is the custom abroad.

The family may wish to include both the Hebrew and English names of the deceased and the English date of death (some also inscribe date or year of birth).

There are many firms from whom one may order this *Matzeva*. You can ask your local AACI branch to assist in finding a firm for you.

# After Shiva

## **Legal Governmental/Business Matters**

Following the week of mourning (*Shiva*) there are necessary legal matters to address.

### **Death Certificate**

The *teudat p'tira* (death certificate) is issued by *Misrad HaPnim* (Ministry of the Interior). When you visit your local branch, bring with you the *hoda'at p'tira* (medical death certificate) and *Teudat Zehut* of the deceased. This usually takes 2 to 4 weeks. It is recommended to request at least 10 copies. *Misrad HaPnim* automatically notifies *Bituach Leumi*. In many local *Misrad HaPnim* branches, there is now a self-help machine where you can request a *teudat p'tira* without waiting in line. See [www.piba.gov.il/UsefullInfo/Offices/Pages/self\\_service\\_offices.aspx](http://www.piba.gov.il/UsefullInfo/Offices/Pages/self_service_offices.aspx) for office locations (site is in Hebrew). Please note that the *teudat p'tira* is in Hebrew only.

### **Bank**

If an *arichut yamim* form has been signed at the bank with respect to co-owners of the account, the survivor will be able to continue to use up to half of the balance of the bank account, and in some circumstances even more than half even though the form does not convey title. Many banks will automatically sign married holders of joint accounts on this form, so if you are not sure if you signed one, ask at your bank.

If you do not have the *arichut yamim* form signed, the bank may freeze your joint account, which would necessitate waiting for a *tzav yerusha* or *tzav kiyum tzava'a*, a probate or succession order from a rabbinical or a civil court, in order to use the joint account. In order to transfer title in the funds, you will also need to submit the *tzav yerusha* or *tzav kiyum tzava'a* to the bank.

There may be credit cards and/or debit cards that need to be cancelled. Before canceling them, check that there are no standing orders (*hora'ot keva*) or outstanding payments on the credit cards.

### **Bituach Leumi Survivor's Allowance**

A *kitzvat she'erim* קיצבת שארים (survivor's allowance) from *Bituach Leumi* to a surviving spouse can be applied for within 12 months of the date of passing. The surviving spouse may receive *kitzvat she'erim* if the deceased was a resident of Israel, insured by *Bituach Leumi* and had worked in Israel. If one has *kitzvat zikna* (pension), one may receive a partial *kitzvat she'erim*. *Bituach Leumi* decides each case on an individual basis, depending on income.

## Will and Probate

Get in touch with your lawyer about the will (*tzava'a*) and estate. Probate (*ishur tzava'a*) is the legal process by which the validity of the will is certified so that the property of the deceased can be distributed. In cases where there is a will, the assets of the deceased will be distributed according to the will. Where there is no will, the assets will be distributed in accordance with the Order of Succession as set by Israeli Inheritance Law.

## Insurance

Get in touch with the relevant insurance companies to find out how to collect on existing life insurance policies and pension plans such as *kupot gemel* (retirement funds), *bituach menahalim* (manager's insurance), and *keren pensia* (pension funds).

## Reporting a Death Abroad

If you still have ties to your country of origin, you may want to inform them through the embassies in Israel of the death in your family. Please note: as dates are often written in different ways in other countries, write out the month pertaining to the death as a word rather than as a number, so that there will be no confusion on documents regarding the death.

## United States:

The American Citizen Services Unit of the United States Embassy and the Consulates in Jerusalem and Haifa can prepare a Report of Death of an American Citizen Abroad – a document that is acceptable in any jurisdiction in the United States for the settlement of legal, financial and estate matters. The Report of Death is then automatically sent to Social Security in the United States. In order for them to prepare this document, you need the following:

- Original death certificate *teudat p'tira* from the Ministry of Interior (*Misrad HaPnim*). The document does not need to be translated into English
- U.S. passport of the deceased for proof of citizenship; the passport will be cancelled and returned
- Social Security card or number of the deceased, if s/he had one
- Last address of the deceased in the U.S.
- Place of burial
- Name of person or official who has possession of the deceased's personal effects
- Name and address of next of kin, to whom the Report of Death will be sent.

You may request up to 10 originals at no cost. Processing time is 5 to 10 workdays.

The American Citizen Services Unit at the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv at 71 HaYarkon requests that you make an appointment and bring the documents in person during public reception hours or that you send them by registered mail. The American Citizen Services Unit in Tel Aviv receives the public Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. They can be reached by telephone from Monday to Thursday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., at 03-519-7475, ext. 2, or by email: [AMCTelAviv@state.gov](mailto:AMCTelAviv@state.gov).

The United States Consulate in Jerusalem at 14 David Flusser, Talpiot, insists that you come in to prepare the report. They ask that if you need to report the death of a U.S. citizen abroad, please contact the Consulate before coming in. They will arrange a private, quiet time for you to come in to handle the situation, outside of normal (and sometimes hectic) public hours in the mornings. To contact the Consulate regarding the death of an American, please email the Consulate at [JerusalemACS@state.gov](mailto:JerusalemACS@state.gov), or call 02-630-4000.

The United States Consulate in Haifa asks that you schedule an appointment with the Consular Agent by calling 04-853-1470. The office is located at 26 Ben Gurion Boulevard, Haifa. This is the Consulate's fax: 04-853-1476 and email: [consage@netvision.net.il](mailto:consage@netvision.net.il).

### **Canada:**

To report the death of a Canadian citizen, it may be necessary to have the death certificate (*teudat p'tira*) authenticated and translated into English. Contact the Canadian Embassy in Israel at 1 Nirim Street, Entrance A, 4th floor, Tel Aviv. Mailing address: P.O.B. 9442, Tel Aviv, 67060; Telephone: 03 636-3300; Fax: 03 636-3383; Email: [taviv@international.gc.ca](mailto:taviv@international.gc.ca); Website: [www.israel.gc.ca](http://www.israel.gc.ca). There may be a fee for this consular service. You may also need to cancel various benefits of the deceased such as Old Age Security, Canada Pension Plan, employment insurance and tax-related payments. The passport should be returned. For further information see: [www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/lifeevents/death/cancelpersonalid.shtml](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/lifeevents/death/cancelpersonalid.shtml)

### **United Kingdom:**

The process of reporting the death of a citizen of the United Kingdom has been computerized, and along with easy instructions, can be accessed online at [www.gov.uk/register-a-death](http://www.gov.uk/register-a-death). This site also allows you to pay the registration fee online. Once you have paid, you will be given a reference number to use on the death registration form.

You must have the Israeli *teudat p'tira* (death certificate) authenticated and translated into English. This document, along with the documents listed below, must be sent by registered mail to the following address:

Overseas Registration Unit, Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
Hanslope Park, Hanslope,  
Milton Keynes MK19 7BH, United Kingdom

The documents you need to send are:

- the original local death certificate (not a certificate issued by a doctor)
- a photocopy of the photo page of the passport of the person who died
- the original full U.K. birth, naturalization or registration certificate (if you can't provide their passport)
- written permission from the person's next of kin or the executor of their estate (if you're not next of kin or the executor).

It usually takes three working days for the death to be registered in the U.K. once the Overseas Registration Unit has received your form and the correct documents. They'll contact you within the three working days if they need more information or if they need to verify your documents. If this happens then it could take up to three months for the death to be registered. Your documents will be returned to you by secure courier after the death has been registered. You will also be sent copies of the registration certificates if you have paid for them.

### **South Africa:**

Deaths of South African citizens and South African permanent residence permit holders that occur outside South Africa can be reported to the South African Embassy in Israel.

Sason Hogi Tower, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
12 Abba Hillel Silver Street, Ramat Gan 52520  
Tel: (03) 5252566 / Fax: (03) 5253230

A certified copy of the death certificate (*teudat p'tira*) must be submitted to the South African embassy or mission when reporting a death. If the deceased is to be buried in South Africa, the Embassy will assist with the paperwork and arrangements with regards to transportation of the body to South Africa.

### **Australia:**

If you are an Australian living in Israel, the Australian Embassy should be informed when your loved one passes. These details will be relayed via the Embassy to the relevant offices in Australia. The Embassy is located at Discount Bank Tower, Level 28, 23 Yehuda Halevi St., Tel Aviv. Tel: 03-693-5000; Fax: 03-693-5002. Website: [israel.embassy.gov.au/tavv/home.html](http://israel.embassy.gov.au/tavv/home.html).

If the family wishes, the Embassy can cancel the passport of the deceased and return it to the family. The Embassy can also assist in transferring remains for burial in Australia.

Further information is available at

[www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/subjects/what-to-do-following-a-death](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/subjects/what-to-do-following-a-death).

## ***Bringing Remains to Israel for Burial***

In order to arrange for burial in Israel, you will need to prove that you have purchased a cemetery plot in Israel, by showing a receipt or fax acknowledging the purchase of a plot.

Then you will need to contact a Jewish funeral home in your area that has experience with burials in Israel. Most large Jewish funeral homes in North America know the procedures for bringing the remains to Israel.

Upon proof of ownership of a plot, the *Chevra Kadisha* obtains authorization (*ishur*) from the Israeli Consulate closest to you.

If you do not already own a plot, contact Rabbi Jay Karzen, Chairman of the AACI Cemetery and Bereavement Committee, to make arrangements.

If you have already purchased a plot in Eretz HaChayim Cemetery, their administration also has a New York office where one can obtain proper instructions – contact by telephone: 718-437-2200, fax: 718-437-4266.

## ***Burial Abroad for Israelis***

Jewish tradition does not usually allow shipping the deceased out of Israel for burial in other countries. However, in extenuating circumstances, with Rabbinic permission, it can be done. For details as to how to handle these situations, contact Rabbi Karzen.

## ***Bereavement Counseling***

Mourners may benefit from grief counseling after a death. AACI counselors maintain information on English-speaking mental health professionals and can make referrals.

## ***Please Notify AACI***

Kindly notify AACI when a death occurs. We may have no other way of knowing about such a loss in our AACI family. Call your local branch (see last page) or email [info@aaci.org.il](mailto:info@aaci.org.il).

## ***Burial Expenses***

### **Services that the *Chevra Kadisha* is obligated to provide free of charge in a public cemetery**

- Burial location - determined by the *Chevra Kadisha*.
- Caring for the deceased - including purification of the body and regular shroud.
- Funeral-related services - participation of ritual staff (composed of at least two people).
- Transfer of the deceased to the burial place: from the place of death to the place of burial, which are located within the boundaries of the local authority in which the *Chevra Kadisha* operates.

### **Services for which the *Chevra Kadisha* is entitled to charge**

- **Place of the burial** – Burying the deceased according to the express wishes of the family in a private cemetery that is defined by *Bituach Leumi* as a “closed cemetery.”
- **Transfer of the deceased** from the place of death which is located within the boundaries of the local authority in which one *Chevra Kadisha* operates, to a burial place located within the boundaries of the local authority in which another *Chevra Kadisha* operates.
- **Reserving a plot** – In cases in which an Israeli resident requests to reserve a burial plot during his lifetime.
- **Providing a *Minyan*** - When the mourners number less than a quorum of 10.
- **Linen shroud** – At the request of the family (only the difference between the price of a regular cotton shroud and a linen shroud will be charged).
- **Preserving the deceased** – Preserving the deceased in a refrigerated room of the *Chevra Kadisha*.
- **Building the foundation for the gravestone or the gravestone itself** - *Bituach Leumi* does not pay for those expenses.

For further information on *Bituach Leumi* and burial expenses:

[www.btl.gov.il/English%20Homepage/Benefits/Burial\\_expenses/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.btl.gov.il/English%20Homepage/Benefits/Burial_expenses/Pages/default.aspx)

## ***Special Situations regarding Bituach Leumi and Burial Costs***

### **Gravestone for a Lone Deceased**

*Bituach Leumi* (National Insurance Institute) pays for the gravestone of a lone person who has died and been buried in Israel if he/she has no family (parent, spouse, child) in Israel, and no death grant was paid for him/her. A son, daughter or other family member (parent or spouse) of a deceased who is mentally ill is not considered "family" in this context, and therefore there is eligibility for a gravestone, provided that no death grant was paid. Three months after the funeral, the burial society that conducted the funeral will erect a gravestone for the lone deceased. The *Bituach Leumi* does not refund payment to a relative of the deceased who erected a gravestone.

### **Non-Jewish Deceased**

When a person who was not Jewish dies and is to be buried in a locality in which there is no society or organization licensed to bury non-Jews, the following must be done in order to be reimbursed for burial expenses: A claim must be submitted to the *Bituach Leumi* branch closest to the place of the deceased's residence. The request must be submitted on a personal claim for reimbursement of burial costs form available from *Bituach Leumi*. A claim may also be submitted by mail, fax or via the service box of the *Bituach Leumi* branch. The original burial license must be attached to the claim form.

### **A Resident of Israel who Died Abroad**

A resident of Israel is someone who is recognized by *Bituach Leumi* as an Israeli **resident** at the time of his death (an Israeli citizen is not necessarily an Israeli resident).

## ***Reference Books and Helpful Websites on Mourning Practices***

Several highly recommended books that explain the step-by-step religious practices and the emotional impact of loss from the moment of death through the entire year of mourning are:

*The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning* by Rabbi Maurice Lamm (Jonathan David Publishers, 1969, 2000)

*Mourning in Halachah* by Rabbi Chaim Goldberg (Art Scroll/Mesorah Publishing Co, 1991)

*Kaddish* by Leon Wieseltier (Alfred A. Knopf, 1998)

*Saying Kaddish: How to Comfort the Dying, Bury the Dead, and Mourn as a Jew* by Anita Diamant (Schocken Books, 1998)

An additional list of books can be found at [www.shiva.com/learning-center/resources/books/](http://www.shiva.com/learning-center/resources/books/).

### **Helpful websites:**

[www.itim.org.il/en/burial/](http://www.itim.org.il/en/burial/) (English)

[www.mazornet.com/deathandmourning/ConservativeShiva.html](http://www.mazornet.com/deathandmourning/ConservativeShiva.html) (English)

[masorti.org.il/page.php?pid=861](http://masorti.org.il/page.php?pid=861) (Hebrew) Masorti movement

[dat.gov.il/Pages/HomePage.aspx](http://dat.gov.il/Pages/HomePage.aspx) (Hebrew) Orthodox

[www.irac.org/](http://www.irac.org/) (English) Reform

*While this information was accurate at the time of publication, please be aware that information may change. Check with your local AACI counselor for updates.*

# AACI Contacts

Rabbi Jay Karzen

02-563-1018 (from abroad 972-2-563-1018)

Mobile 052-3833835 (from abroad 972-52-3833835)

Fax 02-567-2068 (from abroad 972-2-567-2068)

Email [Jkarzen@netvision.net.il](mailto:Jkarzen@netvision.net.il)

## AACI Branches

### Jerusalem

Dr. Max & Gianna Glassman Family Center

Poalei Tzedek2/corner of Pierre Koenig 37

Jerusalem 93469

Tel: 02-566-1181

### South

Mordechai Namir 11

Matnas Yud-Aleph

Beer Sheva

Tel: 08-643-3953

### Central & North

Allenby 94A

Tel Aviv 65813

Tel: 03-696-0389

### Netanya

Shmuel Hanatziv 28

Netanya 42281

Tel: 09-833-0950

[info@aaci.org.il](mailto:info@aaci.org.il)

[www.aaci.org.il](http://www.aaci.org.il)

# Leave a Legacy to AACI

Making a bequest to the AACI allows you to create a philanthropic contribution that helps support our work and build a stronger AACI, which has been the major force in the absorption of tens of thousands of English-speakers in Israel for over 65 years.

By including AACI in your estate, you provide for Israel's future and ensure your continued commitment to our mission – the encouragement of Aliyah and assisting our members' absorption into Israeli society and participation in the life of the country. Your legacy will help strengthen the English-speaking community and ensure that our professional Aliyah and Klitah counselors will serve your needs throughout your and your children's lives in Israel.

You can designate a specific sum of money or a percentage of your estate's value, or identify an asset to be gifted. Leaving a legacy to AACI can help your family to protect assets by eliminating or reducing taxes.

AACI is a registered nonprofit in the State of Israel. American Friends of the AACI is designated as a public charity in the United States under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. All contributions are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

As the representative body of the English-speaking community in this country, we provide a multitude of services - free advice sessions, professional counseling (including employment and Klitah), current tax reporting information for American citizens, ulpan courses, arts and culture programs, social and recreational activities, the Shira Pransky Health Project, the eBooks Library, and the Emergency Handbook, as well as our adult, children and visually impaired libraries, seniors programs and outreach, the popular J-Town Playhouse Theater and, of course, this booklet on the Death of a Loved One.

For further information on making a bequest to AACI, please contact AACI Director of Development at 02-566-1181, ext. 324; [development@aacI.org.il](mailto:development@aacI.org.il)

