

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does Jewish law require burial the next day?

We use the phrase “as quickly as possible.” In ancient times, this meant the very next day; however, later texts favor postponing burial until family members can be assembled to honor the deceased. **Today, we balance expediency, with loved ones’ travel schedules and the availability of burial permits.**

How soon can my loved one be buried?

We work with families to schedule funerals at a time and date of the family’s choice, whenever possible. Burial time and day depend on several factors. The funeral home needs an official death certificate that a healthcare professional must sign (which can take at least a day) and a permit signed by the County (which can also take at least a day), after the doctor has certified the cause of death. Other factors include funeral home availability as well as the availability of a rabbi.

What times and days can we hold a funeral?

Jewish funerals may take place from Sunday through Friday morning of each week, excluding Jewish holidays and commemorations. In honor of Shabbat, services do not occur from Friday afternoon through Saturday evening. Many Jewish funeral services take place in the morning; we work to accommodate the family’s desires.

What do I need to quickly provide to the funeral home after a death?

You will need vital statistics for the death certificate, including your loved one’s social security number, his/her place of birth and his/her parents’ names, including the mother’s maiden name. You also will want to confirm which casket you like in order to ensure enough time for delivery.

Do we order the headstone right away?

You may order a headstone or marker at any time. If your loved one is buried at Hills of Eternity, please check your contract or call our offices to determine what kind of memorial is permitted; there are some sections of our cemetery where only flush (flat) markers are permitted.

How do I arrange for an unveiling?

Jewish tradition permits the dedication of a headstone or grave marker any time after the end of sheloshim, the 30-day mourning period. It has become customary to wait until approximately a year after the death to hold the “unveiling” ceremony; so named because a white cotton or linen cover is removed from the marker at that time. The ceremony, which is often brief and without a formal eulogy, may take place on any day except Shabbat or a Jewish holiday and may be conducted by a rabbi, cantor or knowledgeable lay person. Our rabbis are available to answer any questions.

When you have determined a date and time for the unveiling, please contact our offices to schedule it so that the cemetery manager can prepare the veil on the headstone. If you would

like to hold a reception for the unveiling next door at Butterworth Funeral Home, please contact Butterworth staff at (206) 282-5500 to discuss logistics, costs for catering or room rental, and availability.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Temple De Hirsch Sinai: (206) 323-8486

For after-hours emergencies, dial 1 for our life-and-death emergency line

Butterworth Funeral Home: (206) 282-5500

Quiring Monuments: (206) 552-8400