



PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR GRIEVING FAMILIES

Your community is here to support and serve you.

Dear friends,

We enjoy the happiness of this gift of life. One day, this life, as we know it, will no longer be and our loved ones will have questions that need to be answered. This brochure has been designed to help you.

This brochure outlines what to do when death strikes. With the knowledge that our tradition can guide us, do not hesitate to contact the Rabbi at the GIL if you have any questions.

There are two essential points: Mourning must be lived to overcome, and the memories allow us to step over the precipice which has been opened. Leave the bright and cheerful images to all who surround you, and may your life beautify our world.

rabbi François

Table of contents

1. What do in the case of a death?	P.3
2. Choice of the cemetery	P.4-5
3. Burial costs	p.5
4. Funeral announcement	p.5
5. When should the funeral take place?	P.6
6. Taharah (Preparing the body)	p.6
7. Coffin and it's closure	P.6
8. Autopsy	p.6
9. Organ or body donation	p.7
10. Watch over the deceased.	P.7
11. Burial	p.7
12. Tzedakah (Charitable act)	p.8
13. Mourning period	p.8
14. Jahrzeit/Hazkarah (Date of death anniversary)	p.8
15. Tombstone	p.9
16. Useful contact information	p.9-12

Annexes

Readings	p.14
Psalms	p.15-16
Prayers	p.17-19
Kaddish	p.20-21

1. What to do in case of a death?

- **Advise the Rabbi and the secretariat of GIL.**

The Rabbi will guide you concerning procedures for the burial or cremation.

- **Obtain the medical death certificate.**

It is an essential document when advising the civil registry office.

- If the death was declared in a hospital setting or retirement home, the doctor on duty will issue the death certificate and provide you with it.
- If the death did not occur in either of the above settings, contact a doctor who will confirm the death and issue the death certificate and provide you with it.

- **Contact the funeral parlor.**

They will guide you for all your formalities.

(P.9 Useful contacts)

2. Choice of the cemetery

Members of the GIL can choose to be entombed in the following cemeteries:

St. Georges Cemetery:

The conditions to be accepted for burial in the Jewish section of St. Georges cemetery are:

- Citizen of the municipality of Geneva.
- Born or died in the commune of Geneva.
- Property owner or resident in the commune of Geneva.

For persons who do not meet the above criteria, it is possible to request a derogation by contacting, in advance, the administration of the cemetery.

The length of the concession is 20 years and can be extended up to 99 years.

A non-Jewish spouse can be buried in the Jewish section. In this situation, there will be no non-Jewish religious service and no non-Jewish symbols on the grave.

Communal Cemeteries

Enquire in your municipality about the regulations currently in force.

Israelite cemetery in Veyrier:

This cemetery is under the ownership of the Israelite Community in Geneva (CIG) who administers it.

Contact the CIG (P. 9 useful contacts)

The deceased person must meet the criteria of the Rabbinate of the CIG.

Generally, the CIG will take responsibility for the entire ritual.

Based on the agreements between the CIG and the GIL, the rabbi from the GIL may participate as co-officiant. If you wish for this to be the case, advise the secretariat of the CIG.

Israelite cemeteries outside of Geneva

These cemeteries are administered by their local communities.

For the canton of Vaud, contact the CILV in Lausanne

For Annemasse, contact ACCIAR

(P 9 Useful contacts)

3. Burial Costs

Make enquiries in the relevant communes and cemeteries.

4. Funeral announcement

Think of a wording for the announcement. The Funeral parlor can assist.

Contact selected newspapers.

5. When should the funeral take place?

The funeral service and burial should not be delayed without reason. There is a 48-hour minimum delay required in Geneva.

6. Taharah (Preparing the body)

If you would like a traditional mortuary preparation, please contact EZRAH (P.16 Useful contacts) You will need to provide the Tallit of the deceased person that will be placed in the coffin.

7. Coffin and it's closure

According to our tradition, the coffin should be simple. It is possible to be present when the coffin is being closed. If requested, the Rabbi, can be with you during the closing of the coffin. Tradition advises against seeing the deceased person's face.

8. Autopsy

An autopsy is authorized in the following circumstances:

- In the context of a judicial inquiry
- To establish the cause of death if there is doubt.
- For reasons of medical research destined to save lives.

9. Organ donation

Organ donation is authorized in order to save lives or compensate for a serious deficiency of a patient.

10. Watch over the deceased

Discuss with the Rabbi.

11. Burial

The burial should be simple and dignified.

The family will meet with the Rabbi to discuss details of the rituals and speak about the deceased, allowing the Rabbi to prepare a eulogy that is personalized.

Cremation is authorized. In this case, the burial of the urn is advised.

Cremation is not authorized in the cemetery of Veyrier.

Liberal Judaism does not require a Minyan (10 adults) to recite the Kaddich.

The Kaddich is recited by those close to the deceased and the Rabbi.

Tradition requires us to wash our hands when leaving the cemetery. (Symbolic cleansing).

12. Tzedakah (Charitable act)

In the death announcement loved ones may express their desire to have donations made to an institution of their choosing.

13. Mourning period

The mourning period is divided in three parts and will refer to the date of burial.

- Chiv'ah (7 days) for all family members.
- Chelochim (30 days) for close family
- Full year for ascendants and descendants of the deceased.

During these periods it's a Mitzvah for the persons in mourning to recite the Kaddich in memory of the deceased person.

For additional details, speak with the Rabbi.

14. Jahrzeit/Hazkarah (Yearly anniversary of the death)

After the first year, we remember the deceased each year on the date of the death. Traditionally we light a candle in memory of the deceased person and attend the Synagogue, the Chabbat before the date of the Jahrzeit/Hazkarah to mention the deceased's name and recite the Kaddich.

15. Tombstone

Traditionally, a tombstone can be placed to mark the place of the tomb. The same principles of simplicity concerning the coffin should also guide when selecting a tombstone.

16. Useful Contacts

Communities and various organizations.

Liberal Jewish Community of Geneva -GIL
2 chemin Ella Maillart CH 1208 Genève
Tel : ..+41.22.732.32.45
Email : Info@gil.ch - www.gil.ch

Rabbi François Garai
rabbifrancois@gil.ch - Tel : +41.79.202.30.50

Israelite Community of Geneva (CIG)
21 Avenue Dumas CH 1206 Genève
Tel: +4.122.317.89.34 ou +41.22.317.89.06
Email: cimet@comisra.ch
www.comisra.ch/service/Cimetiere

EZRAH

Contact the CIG

Israelite Community of Lausanne and Vaud (CILV)

3 Avenue Georgette.3; Case Postale 336, CH 1001.Lausanne

Tel: +41.21.342.72.40

Email: secretaire.general@cilv.ch

www.cilv.ch

Worship and cultural Association of Annemasse (ACCIAR)

8 Rue du Docteur Coquand, F 74100 Annemasse

Tel : +.33.450.38.72.30

Email : contact@acciar.fr

www.acciar.fr

Municipal offices of civil status of city of Geneva.

37 Rue de la Mairie, Case Postale 6327, CH 1211 Genève 6

Tel : +41.22.418.66.50

Email : etat-civil@ville-ge.ch

[/https://www.geneve.ch/fr/themes/Civil-parcours-vie/Faire-face-deces-p
roche](https://www.geneve.ch/fr/themes/Civil-parcours-vie/Faire-face-deces-p
roche)

Municipal offices of the other communes in the canton of Geneva.

Enquire in each commune.

Funeral Parlors

Pompes funèbres Murith

89 Blvd de la Cluse CH 1205 Genève

Tel : +41.22.809.56.00

Hotline, 24/24

Email : murith@murith.ch

Pompes funèbres officielles de la Ville de Genève

20 Avenue de la Concorde, CH-1203 Genève

Tél. : +41.22.418.60.00

Hotline 24/24

Email : pompes-funebres@ville-ge.ch

Pompes Funèbres Générales

46 Avenue Cardinal-Mermillod, CH 1227 Carouge

Tel: +41.22.342.30.60

Hotline 24/24

Email: agence@pfg-geneve.ch

For residents in Vaud or France

Contact the local funeral parlors.

For Transfers to Israel

Contact Murith (See above).

Stone Masons for Headstones

Jp Gailloud SA

77 Route de Saint George CH 1213 Petit-Lancy

Tel : +41.22.792.85.28

Email : Contact@jpgailloud.ch

www.marberie-geneve.ch

Marbrerie CAL'AS

8 Avenue du Cimetière CH 1213 Petit-Lancy

Tel : +41.22.793.40.04

info@calas.ch

www.calas.ch

Marbrerie Rossi

14 Rue des Moraines CH 1227 Carouge

Tel :+41 22 342 03 42

Email : marberierossi@bluewin.ch

www.marbrerierossi.com

Annexes

Rabbi Soussia said; In the world to come the question will not be, 'why weren't you Moses?' The question will be 'why weren't you Soussi?' (Hassidic saying)

How will the judgement be? G_d will take us one by one and show us what our life has really been like. They, we will realize the good we have done and the evil we have done. That will be our heaven and hell. After knowledge comes forgiveness (idem).

When we died and people mourned us, perhaps it was because we touched their existence with beauty and simplicity. Let it not be said that life has been beautiful for us, but let it be said that we have made life more beautiful. (Jacob P Rudin).

Exercise your mercy and forgive our transgressions, for no-one in this world does only good, never doing any evil (traditional prayer).

As suddenly, it happens, the last today.
Tomorrow seems so far away when we're young,
And suddenly there is the end now.
There was a time when,
If I could, I would have forced the door of yesterday,
To live again the joy of a love of youth,
To feel again the thirst for time that seems to flow endlessly.
But age has come, and I know that today may be the last today.
That the sun will not rise again to fill my misty eyes.
Tomorrow....who knows where I will be?
Maybe in some Eternity where passing time and still being, are one.
How beautiful death is and how grateful I shall be
(Rabbi Ephraim Rosenzweig Geniza Franments p.92)

Psalms that can be recited in the presence of ailing persons

They can be said before or after the prayers on the following pages

תהלים כ"ג.

מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד, יְהוָה רַעִי לֹא אֶחְסָר: בְּנֵאוֹת דָּשָׁא יִרְבִּיצֵנִי, עַל־מֵי מְנַחוֹת יִנְהַלֵּנִי: נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּב, יִנְחֵנִי בַמַּעְגָּל־צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ: גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶּךָ בְּגִיא צַלְמוֹת לֹא־אִירָא רַע כִּי־אֲתָה עִמָּדִי, שְׁבִטָּךָ וּמִשְׁעֲנֵנְךָ, הִמָּה יִנְחַמְנִי: תַעֲרַר לִפְנֵי שַׁלְחַן נֶגֶד צַרְרִי, דִּשְׁנָתָ בְּשִׁמּוֹן רֹאשִׁי, כּוֹסֵי רְוִיָה: אֶךְ טוֹב וְחֹסֵד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל־יְמֵי חַיִּי, וְשִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית־יְהוָה לְאָרְךָ יָמִים:

Psalm 23

The Lord is my Sheperd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his names sake.

Yes, though I walk through the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou are with me; they rod and they staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the eternal forever.

תהלים ק"ל.

שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת, מִמַּעַמְקִים קָרָאתִיךָ יְהוָה. יְהוָה שְׁמָעָה בְּקוֹלִי, תִּהְיֶינָה אַזְנוֹיֶךָ קְשׁוּבוֹת
לְקוֹל תַּחֲנוּנָי. אִם־עוֹנוֹת תִּשְׁמַר־יָהּ, יְהוָה מִי יַעֲמֵד. כִּי־עַמְךָ הִסְלִיחָה לְמַעַן תִּוָּרָא.
קוֹיִתִּי יְהוָה קוֹיִתָּה נַפְשִׁי, וְלִדְבָרוֹ הוֹחֵלֵתִי. נַפְשִׁי לִיהוָה מְשַׁמְרִים לְבַקֵּר שְׁמָרִים
לְבַקֵּר. יַחַל יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־יְהוָה כִּי־עַם־יְהוָה הַחֲסֵד, וְהַרְבֵּה עִמּוֹ פְדוּת. וְהוּא יַפְדֶּה
אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִכָּל עוֹנוֹתָיו.

Psalm 130

A song of Ascents.

From the depths I cry out to you Eternal G_d.

My Lord hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my pleas.

If you were to mark sins my Lord, who would stand?

But with you it is forgiveness in order that you may be feared.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits and for his word, I hope.

My soul waits for my G_d. More than those who watch for morning.

Israel-have hope in the Lord for with G_d is kindness and great redemption is with him.

Prayer in the presence of a person in their final days.

Eternal G_d and G_d of our ancestors, you are the source of compassion and love. If the life of...(name persone) approaches its end, give me/us the strength to be at their side and accompany them . May he/she live his/her las moments serene; and when his/her soul leaves this world, welcome him/her in light and peace.

יהוה יִשְׁמַר אֶת־נַפְשְׁךָ/נַפְשִׁי, מֵעַתָּה וְעַד־עוֹלָם.

The Eternal will keep his/her soul from this day forward.

Prayer of a person in their final days

Eternal G_d and G_d of my ancestors, you are the creator of life. You know everything and your love is endless. My recovery or death are in your hands. I have confidence in your and I turn to you for comfort and help.

I pray and hope for healing. But I know that I am mortal, and my days are counted. Our earthly life has a term that only you will determine. If, for me, the time is approaching, help me to die in peace and dignity confident that you are with me for always everywhere. Confident that you will comfort my loved ones and be at their sides.

I know that my life has not been perfect, and I have missed many opportunities to do good deeds. I confess these faults during these, my last moments, before I leave the world.

חַטָּאתִי, עֲוֹנוֹתַי, פְּשָׁעֵתִי

I have made mistakes, I have done wrong, I have transgressed.

I pray, hoping that you and those that I have hurt will pardon me. I hope that you will take into account the good that I have done or tried to do to my fellow men/women. I pray that you will take into account the contributions that I have made to help make the world into which you brought me a better place.

בְּיָדוֹ אֶפְקִיד רוּחִי, בְּעֵת אִישׁן וְאָעִירָהּ.

וְעַם רוּחִי גְוִיָּתִי, יְהוָה לִי וְלֹא אִירָא.

I commit to you my soul falling asleep and waking
And with my soul, my body; G_d is with me, I fear nothing.

*Beyado afkid rouhi, beèt ichan vea'ira,
ve'im rouhi gueviyati, Adonai li velo ira.*

יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ, יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ, יְהוָה יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

The Eternal rules, The Eternal has ruled, the Eternal will rule forever.

Adonay mélèkh, Adonay malakh, Adoany Yimlokh leolam vaèd

בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מְלִכּוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Blessed be for always, the name of his glorious rule.

Baroukh chèm kevod malekhouto leolam vaèd

יְהוָה הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים.

The Eternal is the only G_d

Adoany Hou haElohim

שִׁמְעֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד:

Listen Israel, the Eternal our G_d the Eternal is One.

Chema Israël, Adonay Elohénou, Adonay E'had

KADDISH

Créateur de toutes choses, Tu nous donnes la vie avec ses joies et ses peines, et Tu envoies la mort, avec sa promesse de paix infinie. Apprends-nous à accepter avec humilité et courage la douleur qui nous assaille au moment de la mort de Et puisse le souvenir du bien et du bon qu'il/elle a accompli nous unir en ce moment de recueillement. Que l'espérance d'une existence après la mort éclaire l'obscurité de notre peine et veille sur nous en ces moments de séparation.

En sa mémoire, nous glorifions Ton Nom sacré en disant le Kaddich.

May the great Name of God be exalted and sanctified, throughout the world, which he has created according to his will. May his Kingship be established in your lifetime and in your days, and in the lifetime of the entire household of Israel, swiftly and in the near future; and say, Amen. May his great name be blessed, forever and ever. Blessed, praised, glorified, exalted, extolled, honored, elevated and lauded be the Name of the holy one, Blessed is he – above and beyond any blessings and hymns, Praises and consolations which are uttered in the world; and say Amen. May there be abundant peace from Heaven, and life, upon us and upon all Israel; and say, Amen. Those who bring peace above, will bring peace to us all to all of Israel and to all humanity and we will say Amen.

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ, וְיִמְלִיךָ מַלְכוּתָהּ, וְיַצְמַח פְּרֻקְנָהּ וְיִקְרַב גְּאוּלְתָּהּ, בְּחַיִּיכוּן וּבְיֹמֵיכוּן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעַגְלָא וּבְזַמָּן קָרִיב, וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן.

יהא שמה רבא מברך לעלם ולעלמי עלמאי.

יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא, וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלַּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקֻדְשָׁא, בְּרִיךְ הוּא לְעֵלָא (בעשי"ת ולעלא) מן כָּל-בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא, תְּשַׁבְּחַתָּא וְנִחְמַתָּא דְאִמְיָרָן בְּעֵלְמָא, וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן.

יהא שלמא רבא מן שמיא וחיים עלינו ועל כל-ישראל, ואמרו אמן.

*עושה שלום במרומוי, *הוא יעשה שלום עלינו, *ועל כל-ישראל ועל כל-יושבי תבל. ואמרו: אמן.

Yitgadal veyitkadach chemé rabba, bealma di vera khir'outé, veyamlikh malkhouté, veyatzmah pourkané vikarèv gueoulté, behayékhon ouveyomékhon, ouvehayé dekhohl beit Yisraël, baagala ouvizman kariv, ve'imrou: amen.

Yehé chemé rabba mevarakh, lealam oulealmé almaya.

Yitbarakh veyichtabah, veyitpaar, veyitromam, veyitnassé, veyithadar, veyit'alé, veyithalal, chemé dekoudecha, berikh hou; leéla (ouleéla) min kol birkhata vechirata, touchbehata venéhémata, daamiran bealma, ve'imrou: amen.

Yehé chelama rabba min chemaya vehayim, alénou veal kol Yisraël, ve'imrou: amen.

Ossé chalom bimromav, Hou yaassé chalom, alénou veal kol Yisraël, veal kol yochevé tévé, ve'imrou: amen

Notes
