

After the death of a Jewish resident, please contact Rabbi Abe (x870 and tiger text).

Judaism believes in a concept called "*Kavod Hamet*," honoring the dead. Therefore, it is customary to maintain a state of reverence and respect in the presence of a deceased person, and not to speak about mundane matters.

Staff can assist by:

- Closing the eyes and mouth of the deceased
- Positioning the body so the deceased is lying on his/her back, head elevated above the rest of the body, and limbs straightened out as much as possible
- Covering the deceased with a sheet (only after the police have examined the body).
- With families permission, calling funeral home (most Jewish synagogues work with Canale Funeral Directors, 901-452-6400)

Aside from providing incontinence and minimal hygienic care, the deceased's body should *not* be washed by staff. However, any wound should be contained or covered to prevent flow of blood or any bodily fluids. Any blood emitted from the body at the time of death is to be buried with the deceased, in accordance with Jewish tradition. Consequently:

- Bandages or inserted needles should be left in place. Tubes such as IV lines or gastric tubes should be knotted as close to the site as possible, cut above the knot and taped down in place. Other tubes, including a urinary catheter, can be carefully removed.
- If any blood is found on the clothing or linen of the deceased, it should be removed, inserted in a plastic bag, and placed in the body bag together with the deceased.

Some families may wish (though it is not required) for staff assistance with:

- Opening the window in the room where the deceased is lying. (In our facility, windows will not stay open, so opening it briefly and then closing is sufficient).
- Placing a lighted candle near the head of the deceased (in our facility, you can ask the Rabbi for an electric candle. If it's over a weekend, call the front desk. Candles will be stored in the workroom).

Some Jewish families prefer that the deceased not be left unattended, and they may choose to fill that role. Right after death, a family may want at least one person to serve as a *shomer* (a "guard," someone who accompanies the body) until the funeral home arrives. If the family wishes to have a *shomer* present at all times, they will have to provide that person. This is not a service that the Jewish Home provides.

If death occurs on a Sabbath or Holiday, depending on the families wishes, the funeral home can pick up the deceased or the deceased can be kept in our morgue.