SHIV'A (AND SHLOSHIM): TIMING

WHEN SHIV'A (AND SHLOSHIM) STARTS

When Shiv'a (and Shloshim) Starts: Normal Days

Shiy'a (and *shloshim*) starts for a mourner who:

- Attends funeral: After the burial.
- Will not attend funeral and is a(n):
 - Non-Onen: Immediately upon hearing news of the death.
 - Onen: As soon as the onen has nothing (more) to do with the funeral.

NOTE Family members may observe *shiv'a* at different starting and ending times.

When Shiv'a (and Shloshim) Starts: Jewish Festivals

For someone who dies during <u>Rosh Hashana</u>, <u>Yom Kippur</u>, or any of the three <u>Jewish festivals</u>, the mourning period does not start until after the holiday has ended.

HOW LONG SHIV'A (AND SHLOSHIM) LASTS

Duration of Shiv'a (and Shloshim)

Shiv'a lasts seven days. *Shloshim* lasts 30 days, beginning with Day 1 of *shiv'a*. There may be some exceptions if *shiv'a* occurs before or during festivals.

NOTE Any part of the first day is considered to be one full day. On the final day after *shacharit*, the mourners finish *shiy'a*, so *shiy'a* can actually last as little as 5 ¹/₂ calendar days.

WHEN SHIV'A RESUMES

When Shiv'a Resumes: Shabbat Shiv'a that is interrupted by Shabbat resumes Sunday morning.

When Shiv'a Resumes: Jewish Festival Shiv'a that is interrupted by a <u>Jewish festival</u> does not resume after being interrupted.

When Shiv'a Resumes: Purim Shiva is interrupted for Purim and resumes (except on shiv'a's 7th day) after Purim (or, in Jerusalem, after Shushan Purim).

When Shiv'a Resumes: Chanuka *Shiva* is not interrupted for *Chanuka*.

When Shiv'a Resumes: Rosh Chodesh Shiva is not interrupted for <u>Rosh Chodesh</u>.

WHEN SHIV'A ENDS

When Shiv'a Ends: Onen

An *onen* ends *shiv'a* (and *shloshim*) with the household head ("*gadol ha'bayit*"--whoever controls the money in that household)—even if the household head begins *shiv'a* before burial and the *onen* joins the *shiv'a* house after burial.

When Shiv'a Ends: Non-Onen Who Finds Out Later

If you do not hear about someone's death for 30 days after the person died, observe just one day of <u>shiy'a</u>. If you hear in less than 30 days, observe the regular seven-day <u>shiy'a</u>.

© Copyright 2025 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com