BEING AN ONEN

Onen Restrictions

An *onen* is prohibited from doing positive *mitzvot* so as not to be distracted from taking care of the dead body.

An *onen* may not:

- Do any positive commandment (no blessings, prayers, *shema*…).
- Eat meat or drink wine (until after the burial).
- Work or operate a business.

NOTE Before the relative dies, if possible, the *onen* should sell his business for whatever days he or she will be an *onen* and in *shiv'a*. Otherwise, the owner may have to close the business until *shiv'a* is over.

NOTE If there will be a large financial loss, consult a *rabbi*. A large loss is subjective to the individual's actual wealth and also to that person's perception of what is a large loss. Consult a *rabbi* for how much constitutes a large loss.

Onen Traveling with Body

An *onen* who accompanies a body to a foreign country for burial may have two extra days (or more) of *onenut*. If the *onen* then returns home and joins other mourners in the *shiv'a* house, the *onen* may end *shiv'a* with the other family members. (For more details, see When *Shiv'a* (and *Shloshim*) Starts: Normal Days .)

Being an Onen: Saying Kaddish

Some communities have the custom of an *onen*'s saying *kaddish*.

NOTE When a person's parent dies on or just before (*erev*) *Shabbat* or a *Jewish festival*, a daughter of any age should not be told until after *Shabbat* or the festival is over. A son should only be told if he is 6 years old and above and the custom in that community is to say *kaddish* as an *onen*.

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