IN THE PRESENCE OF THE BODY

Lighted Candle Near Head of Dead Person

It is customary to place a lighted candle near the head of a dead person.

Put Dead Body on Floor

It is customary to put a dead body on the floor, if possible.

Shomer To Honor Dead Person

A “watcher” (*shomer*) should stay with a dead body at all times until the burial, if possible, to honor the dead person. The watcher should be close enough to be able to see the body. A non-Jew may be a watcher, but only *b'di'avad*.

NOTE If the body is being shipped somewhere, it is preferable that a *shomer* stay with the body, but it is not required.

Shomer for Several Days

When a person dies on *Shabbat* or a *Jewish festival*, a watcher (*shomer*) should still be present until burial, even if there will be a delay of several days.

Woman Shomeret

A woman may be a watcher (*shomeret)* for a dead person.

NOTE Either gender may watch the other, but the custom is to have the same gender where possible.

Eating in Room with Body

Don't eat in a room in which there is a dead body**.**

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