# KRI'A: TEARING THE CLOTHES

## KRI'A: WHO TEARS

### Children and Kri'a

When a parent has died, the children must tear "*kr'ia*," that is, tearing any garments that they wear during *shiv'a*.

### Women and Kri'a

Women do *kri'a*. To avoid exposing her body when tearing, a woman may wait until she is in a private place. After tearing, she might need to pin the torn area closed for *tzni'ut* (modest attire).

## KRI'A: ON WHAT TO TEAR

### What To Tear for Kri'a

When tearing *kri'a*, do not tear underwear, a coat or sweater worn for warmth, or *talit katan*. To avoid ruining good or expensive clothing, you may change to other clothes before doing *kri'a*.
You may tear the same garment more than once if you need to do *kriya* for more than one dead person or for seeing the *Temple* mount more than once (in more than 30 days).

## KRI'A: WHEN TO TEAR

### Tear at News or Funeral Home

Do the tearing/*kri'a* when you hear the news of a death. If not, tear at the funeral home before the funeral.

## KRI'A: HOW TO TEAR

### How To Tear Kri'a

If you are in mourning for a parent, whether you are a *man* or woman, tear a vertical tear 4 inches (10.2 cm) long on your outermost garments (shirt and jacket, if you wear one) at the neck on the left side. The bulk of the tear must be made by hand, not with scissors or a knife, although you may start the tear with a sharp implement.

## KRI'A: HOW OFTEN TO TEAR

### Kri'a: How Often for a Parent

When mourning for a parent, you must tear *kri'a* throughout the *shiv'a* week whenever you change shirts, so it is best to change garments as little as possible! You must wear the torn garment during the entire week of *shiv'a*. Coats do not require *kri'a*.

NOTE Wearing a torn black ribbon pinned to a garment does not fulfill the requirement of *kri'a*.

### Kri'a: How Often for Non-Parents

When mourning for any of the five categories of people other than parents (spouse; son; daughter; brother; sister), tear only one time and only the outermost garment (but not coats) and tear on the right side.

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