MOURNER'S KADDISH

KADDISH: FOR WHOM TO SAY

Kaddish for Parents/Exceptions

Mourner's *kaddish* is only supposed to be said for parents, unless no one else is saying *kaddish* for the dead person. If both your parents are still alive, you may not say mourner's *kaddish* for someone else unless you get your parents' permission.

Kaddish for Relatives Other than Parents

If you wish, you may say mourner's *kaddish* for family members other than parents, especially during *shloshim* (the first 30 days after burial), since the first 30 days after death are the most difficult for the dead person's soul.
However, you may say *kaddish* for anyone even after *shloshim* ends, if you wish, until the end of 11 months (for a *shomer-mitzvot* person) or 12 months (for a non-*shomer mitzvot* person. But in a place where only one person says *kaddish*, you may not supplant another person who is halachically required to say *kaddish*.

KADDISH: HOW LONG TO SAY

Kaddish: How Long To Say: Shomer Shabbat or Not

Kaddish is only said for 11 months for a *shomer Shabbat* Jew and 12 months for a non-shomer-*Shabbat* Jew.

Kaddish Timing: Last Day of Kaddish

The last day of *kaddish* is based on the day he or she was buried.
The final *kaddish* for a mourner, at the end of 11/12 months, will always be at *mincha*, regardless of when the dead person died or was buried.

KADDISH: WHO SHOULD SAY

Kaddish: Who Should Say: Sons Six and Above

All sons age 6 and above are required to say *kaddish* for a dead parent. For frequency, see *Kaddish* Frequency: Requirements of Sons.

NOTE Women are not required to say *kaddish*.

Kaddish: Who Should Say: Women

Women are not required to say *kaddish*, and it is not customary for them to do so. But if they want to, it is best if at least one *man* says *kaddish* with the woman.

KADDISH: HOW OFTEN TO SAY

Kaddish Frequency: Needs of Dead Person

Each dead person needs *kaddish* to be said for him or her:

- By at least one person.

  NOTE If more than one person who was close to the dead person (such as a relative) says *kaddish*, it is a merit for the soul of the dead person.

- At least once a day.

  NOTE More frequently is commendable, since *kaddish* relieves a dead person's soul from *gehenna*.

Kaddish Frequency: Requirements of Sons

Each son age 6 and above is required to say *kaddish* for his dead parent at least once a day.

NOTE “Day” here means from dark until the following sunset**.** If you say *kaddish* at *mincha* and the following *ma'ariv*, you have covered two days.

Saying Kaddish Multiple Times

Even though saying *kaddish* many times benefits the dead person's soul, there is no need--nor is it the custom--to attend multiple minyans each day in order to say *kaddish* for a dead person many times.

KADDISH: WITH WHOM TO SAY

Saying Kaddish in Unison

Ideally, only one mourner should say *kaddish*, whether mourner's *kaddish*, *rabbis' kaddish*, etc. Any *kaddish* said by more than one mourner should be said in unison.

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