MOURNING: WHO MUST MOURN

Mourning: Who Must Mourn: Seven Categories

There are seven categories of relatives for whom mourning is required: father; mother; spouse; son; daughter; brother; sister.

Mourning: Who Must Mourn: Before Burial/Onen

From the time of death until burial, the seven relatives are called *onen* (*onenim*). One is only an *onen* if he or she will participate in the funeral or make decisions related to the funeral. This could be even if you will be involved only in deciding who will speak at the hesped. If someone is completely uninvolved in the funeral arrangements, one is an aveil.

Mourning: Who Must Mourn: No Onenut on Shabbat and Jewish Festivals

One is not an *onen* whenever a body may not be buried, such as on *Shabbat* and *Jewish festivals*, and so there is no *onenut* on *Shabbat* or *Jewish festivals*. An *onen* says blessings and does *mitzvot* on those days.

Mourning: Who Must Mourn: After Burial/Avel

After burial, any of the seven close relatives are called *avel* (*aveilim*).

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