TOMBSTONES AND GRAVES

TOMBSTONES

When To Set Up Tombstone

Set up a tombstone on the grave any time after the burial but within 12 Jewish months of burial.

What To Have Engraved on Tombstone

Put the dead person's name on the tombstone. Anything aside from the name is optional.

Tombstone if Hebrew Name Unknown

Use the person's secular name in any language if the *Hebrew* name is unknown.

GRAVES

HOW TO TREAT GRAVES

Graves: Photographs

Taking photos of graves is OK. (This is common at the Jewish cemetery in Prague.)

Graves: Visiting

There is not any *mitzva* or *halacha* to visit graves of any person, not even *tzadikim* and not even parents.

Graves: Stepping on

Do not step on graves.

Graves: Leaving Stone

When you visit a grave, it is customary to leave a small stone on the tombstone.

© Copyright 2026 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com