

**Guide for Dealing with Death, Funeral, Shiva and Mourning  
During Covid-19  
April 8, 2020**

- We at Congregation Beth Shalom want you to know that we are available to answer your questions regarding the death of a loved one and to guide you through the process of funeral preparations and sitting shiva during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The death of a loved one often leads to disorientation and confusion about how to proceed, all the more so during these times of social distancing due to the coronavirus. This guide has been prepared to help CBS members deal with this process in this time of public health crisis. These guidelines are based on the restrictions on gathering imposed by the State of Illinois in a communal effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

**What to do when a death occurs**

- First call Rabbi Marc Rudolph by phone at 630-961-1818 or notify the Rabbi through email. Rabbi Rudolph will guide you on the selection of a funeral home, how to notify the community of the death and setting up shiva hours.
- If you would like for any meals to be delivered at your home, the community can provide that assistance. Please contact [connections@napershalom.org](mailto:connections@napershalom.org)
- As a service to our members and the greater Jewish community, our congregation owns cemetery sites within the Naperville Cemetery, located near downtown Naperville. For information, contact our administrative office, who will have a cemetery committee member contact you.

**The funeral**

- Until it is safe for mourners to gather in groups, funerals will be limited to the immediate family and no more than ten people may be present. All funerals will be conducted at the graveside.

**Shiva and shloshim**

- Shiva is a meaningful ritual for the community to support mourners at a time of profound grief. It is a time for the CBS community to embrace, support, and show our love and care for you. Shiva can be scheduled for any time during the first seven days after the burial with the exception of Shabbat and some holidays. Rabbi Rudolph can counsel you on shiva scheduling.
- During the Covid-19 crisis, all community-organized shivas will be conducted online via Zoom video conferencing. CBS will provide service leaders and an electronic

version of the prayer service. Ordinarily, the Mourner's Kaddish may only be recited when ten Jews of bar/bat mitzvah age and above are present. During the Covid-19 crisis, however, the Avodah (Worship) Committee has approved the recitation of Mourner's Kaddish during a virtual shiva minyan and at other prayer services.

- Once shiva is over, mourners can recite Kaddish at our virtual Kabbalat Shabbat service on Fridays at 5:30pm and our virtual Shabbat morning service (10am – 11am).
- Some people may wish to mark the end of Shloshim (30 days of mourning) with a minyan at which the mourner or family members may speak about the deceased. If you'd like a shloshim minyan conducted, we will arrange that for you.

### **When the Covid-19 crisis is over**

- Once the social distancing requirement is lifted and it is safe to gather again in person, we hope to hold a special service in memory of all those who passed away during this time. At that time, we will once again be able to mourn together as a community.