

Hilchos Aveilus

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Onen

1. Eating is not allowed in the room with the niftar.
2. Smoking is not allowed in the room with the niftar
3. Having meat or wine is not allowed
4. A minor doesn't have to keep any of these halachos
5. No mitzvos are allowed to be done. No Berachos can be made and no answering Amen.
6. No partaking in a minyan.
7. Washing is required before eating bread but no Bracha is made
8. Washing hands in the morning (negel vaaser) is required
9. Tzitzis are worn without a Bracha
10. Hands should be washed after using the bathroom but Asher Yatzar is not said
11. Krias shema before going to sleep should be said including the Bracha of Hamapil
12. No learning Torah. However the halachos of aveilus can be learned
13. Tehillim can be said on behalf of the niftar
14. If the onen is in a different city then the halachos are complex. Ask a Rav
15. Nowadays the Halachos of Onen go until after the burial because most aveilim normally go to the burial. However if someone were to not go to the burial then aveilus starts immediately after they take leave of the niftar.
16. Shoes can be worn until after the burial.
17. Really the Halacha is to only sit on the floor, but our minhag allows sitting on chairs until after burial.
18. Marital relations, washing, anointing, happiness, and haircuts are not allowed
19. Showers/bathing is not allowed. If necessary, ask a Sheila
20. Melacha is not allowed. Business is considered melacha
21. Melacha/business is not allowed even if others do it for you and even if there's going to be a loss. For a heavy loss ask a Sheila.
22. No greeting people
23. An onen can leave the house
24. Halachos of where/when/how to do Kriah will be up to the minhag of the Chevra Kadisha
25. If ones relative died they should wait to tell them until after they're finished davening

Onen on shabbos

1. If the burial hasn't been done before Shabbos, mincha should be davened immediately before Shabbos
2. The only halachos that have to be kept are those that are done in private. Therefore no marital relations and no learning Torah
3. Learning the parsha is allowed
4. Learning the halachos of aveilus is allowed
5. If there's nobody else in shul saying Kaddish then the onen should say Kaddish. Otherwise he doesn't have to but he can if he wants
6. No Aliyos on shabbos unless he gets one every week
7. If there's no one else to be chazan then the onen can be the chazan
8. On motzai shabbos, there is no maariv and no havdala. Krias shema should be said before nightfall
9. Havdala is made after the burial. If the burial is on Sunday or later then havdala is made without a candle and without besamim
10. The onen can eat even though they haven't made havdala yet
11. Atah chonantanu in atah chonen in shemona esrei shouldn't be said Sunday morning

12. Havdala after Yom tov is only allowed to be made one day afterwards not three days like shabbos

After burial

1. The aveilus starts after all the dirt has covered the grave
2. The avelem should take off their shoes
3. Aveilim that don't go to the cemetery but the cemetery is close to the city, don't start sitting shiva until after the burial
4. If the cemetery is far away then those that don't travel there start shiva immediately. Those that travel to the cemetery start from after the burial
5. In the above case, when to end shiva is complicated and a Sheila should be asked
6. As long as the burial was done before nightfall, that day can count as day one
7. The first meal on the first day after the burial can't be from the avels' own food
8. Bread is supposed to be eaten but if it's difficult then any mezonos is allowed
9. If the avel has no one else to give him food or he doesn't want anyone else's food then he should fast until night
10. It's better not to eat ones own food even if it's not a meal but if necessary then it's allowed
11. If the burial happened three hours before shabbos, when you can't eat bread, then the avel should fast until shabbos. If necessary they can taste from someone else's food
12. A woman can't eat from her husbands food for the first meal
13. The meal should begin with something round like lentils or eggs
14. The food should be handed directly into the hands of the avel. It should not be placed on the table
15. There is a meal on Chol Hamoed, Chanukah and Purim but with meat and wine not with round foods
16. If the aveilim ate together, they make a mezuman
17. The first day of aveilus, tefilin aren't worn. If the burial happened on a

different day than the death then tefilin should be put on without a bracha

18. Tefilin of rabeinu tam shouldn't be worn during shiva
19. A candle should be lit, preferably by the avel, that will last until the end of shiva
20. If the death was at home, the candle should be lit in the room where the death happened
21. If the death was in the hospital, the candle should be lit in the niftar's house
22. If that's not possible then the candle should be lit in the house where they're sitting shiva

Davening after burial

1. If the burial is over before chatzos then daven the complete davening even if it has to be done right outside the cemetery
2. Mussaf on Rosh Chodesh can be said all day
3. Davening is allowed once the aron is covered with dirt, even though aveilus doesn't start until the burial is complete
4. Birchah Hatorah can be said all day
5. Birchah Hashachar: if one finds out about the death after sunrise, it can be said all day. Otherwise it shouldn't be said
6. In most circumstances there is no tashlumin (making up) of any missed tefilos unless the burial was very close to the death

Nichum aveilim

1. It's a great mitzva to be menachem avel. It's chesed for both the niftar and the relatives
2. No greeting anyone in a shiva house
3. The avel has to talk first
4. If the avel groans etc. then that's considered talking first and the visitor can start talking
5. If the avel signals that the guests should go then they're required to leave
6. Men are allowed to be menachem avel women

7. An avel doesn't have to stand up for anyone who comes in
8. Don't say "we can't change Hashems ways" because that sounds like you're saying that if you could change it then you would and that's not accepting Hashems will with love
9. Try not to talk about anything other than the niftar
10. The shiva should be in the house where the person passed away
11. The avel should preferably sit down when people are being menachem but it's not required

Minyan/Davening

1. It's a Mitzva to make a minyan in the house of the niftar even if there are no aveilim
2. No birchas kohanim.
3. No Tachnun
4. No laminatzeiach
5. The avel doesn't say ketores and aizehu mekoman etc.
6. Most don't say תתקבל in any Kaddish that's said
7. On Rosh Chodesh, the avel should go into another room for hallel. If there's no other room then hallel isn't said. The mispalelim aren't required to say hallel when they get home. Except for Chanukah.
8. If there's no avel or if shiva is not in the house where the person passed away then hallel is said but the avel shouldn't say it
9. If the seventh day falls out in a day that we say hallel, the avel should say it after getting up from shiva
10. If the avel is davening in shul then he should say hallel
11. Nowadays we don't have a minhag to say the special Bracha in birchas hamazon unless bentching with a minyan

Issurim for an avel during shiva

Work

1. Not allowed to work. Like chol hamoed
2. Business is also not allowed.
3. A business owner or a partner should ask a Sheila as to how to proceed
4. A non Jew can't do work for an avel and neither can other Jews
5. Debt collection is allowed
6. In case of loss etc. a Sheila should be asked
7. An avel can cook and clean if necessary
8. No reading books, newspapers etc.
9. An Avel can go home to sleep or move houses to sit shiva somewhere else
10. The Avel is allowed to drive
11. The Avel should not travel alone at any time

Personal needs

1. No marital relations I
2. No intimate touching
3. Harchakos that are kept during nidda don't have to be kept by aveilus

Washing

1. The entire body can't be washed even with cold water
2. The hands face and feet can be washed with cold water only
3. Warm water is not allowed
4. Washing to remove dirt is allowed
5. If one is finicky and it's going to cause illness then they're allowed to wash
6. If ones hair is really bothering them then they're allowed to wash it
7. Brushing teeth and mouthwash is allowed
8. Makeup is not allowed
9. A lady of marriageable age is allowed to wear makeup

Anointing

1. Anointing and/or smearing for enjoyment isn't allowed
2. If it's to remove a smell (deodorant) then it's allowed

Shoes

1. No wearing shoes made out of leather. Other shoes are allowed

Learning Torah

1. Learning any type of Torah isn't allowed except for hilchos aveilus etc. but it can't be learned in depth
2. If you have a chiddush then it can be written down
3. An avel can't get an Aliya even if he's the only kohen. On shabbos and he's the only kohen it would be allowed
4. No reading the pesukim before havdala (hinei)
5. Tehilim can be said
6. Shinayim mikra (mavir sedra) is allowed on shabbos
7. Learning mussar is allowed

Sheilas Shalom

1. An avel can't inquire about a person for the first three days
2. If one says Shalom to an avel in the first three days, he must answer that he's an avel
3. After the first three days, the avel can't inquire to others but if he's asked then he can answer
4. An avel should not hang out with people because it brings to happiness
5. Saying "hello" is allowed because it's just an acknowledgment to speak not an inquiry about the person
6. An avel can give a Bracha and receive a Bracha from someone else
7. A handshake is allowed
8. Shaking the head is allowed

Misc.

1. According to the Halacha, an avel has to sit and sleep on the floor (see 2)
2. For the elderly and the sick, a cushion can be used (nowadays everyone is considered to be in this category)
3. The minhag is to cover mirrors

4. We don't do the covering of the head nowadays but wearing the hat low on the head is preferred
5. No wearing freshly laundered clothes
6. No fresh linen, tablecloths or towels
7. The avel can't do laundry but if the clothes were already at the cleaners then it's allowed
8. Others can't do laundry for the avel
9. If the clothing gets dirty they can be changed but if they're laundered someone should wear them first. However kriyah has to be torn on the shirt
10. If necessary, undergarments and socks can be changed
11. Nails are not allowed to be cut with a nail cutter or scissors. With the hands or teeth it's allowed
12. Starting the nail with a nail cutter and peeling the rest is allowed
13. If necessary, a non Jew can cut the nails
14. Combing hair is allowed even during shiva
15. An avel is not allowed to leave the house unless it's very important
16. Going into the backyard and porch is allowed
17. If there's no room to sleep in the house, the avel can go home but only when the streets are empty
18. Playing with children is not allowed. If it's necessary for the child then it's allowed. Little babies that don't really play are allowed to be held
19. Anything that's going to make you forget about the mourning is not allowed. Ex. games, newspapers etc.
20. Close relatives of the of the avel have to keep all of the halachos of aveilus from the burial (not before) until after shabbos.
21. If the avel is mochel on this Halacha then the relatives don't have to keep them

Shabbos/Yom tov

1. The only aveilus that is kept on shabbos is what's done in private. Like marital relations and learning Torah etc.
2. Shabbos preparations can be done from approximately two and a half hours before shabbos
3. No showering/washing even for Shabbos
4. It's preferable not to go to mikva even if
5. Our minhag is to wear shabbos clothes on shabbos even if they're freshly laundered but better to get someone to wear it first
6. It's best if the clothing and shoes aren't changed until close to shabbos
7. It's preferable not to make an early Shabbos
8. The parsha can be reviewed
9. An avel shouldn't get an Aliya but if he gets called up then he has to go
10. Kabala Shabbos should be said
11. If others are in the house then Shabbos zmiros should be sang otherwise it's optional
4. Nails can't be cut
5. Biting or peeling the nails is allowed
6. The nails can be started with a clipper/ scissors and completed with the teeth or fingers
7. If someone else cuts the nails then there are those that are lenient even during shiva
8. Makeup for a married woman, and a woman of marriageable age is allowed
9. The minhag is that an avel doesn't wear freshly laundered clothing during shloshim. Someone else should wear them first for a little bit
10. Fresh linen also shouldn't be used
11. If it's laundered with just water and not detergent then it's allowed
12. An avel shouldn't be greeted by others until after shloshim.
13. After shiva an avel can greet others
14. The minhag is that an avel changes his seat in Shul, preferably further away from the front
15. This applies on Shabbos too
16. Women who go to shul should also change their seat

End of shiva

1. Shiva ends on the seventh morning after davening
2. If the seventh day falls out on shabbos then it also ends after davening
3. The minhag is that the aveilim are told "get up" and then shiva is over
4. You're supposed to immediately accompany the neshama to the cemetery. If you can't then at least walk the neshama to the door. Many have the minhag to walk around the block. If you do, don't come back to the house in the same direction that you left

Shloshim

1. Hot showers are not allowed
2. Showers have to be lukewarm and should only be taken for cleanliness not for pleasure
3. No haircuts or shaving