



Melbourne Chevra Kadisha

מלבון חברה קדישא

115 -119 Inkerman St. St Kilda, Victoria 3182
Tel: (03) 9534 0208 (24 hr service) Fax: (03) 9525 3954 www.mck.org.au

Jewish Procedure in Hospitals / Nursing Homes after Death

"The principle governing the case of the body immediately following death is the sacredness of man. The manner of respect is governed and detailed by religious tradition rather than by personal sentiment and whim alone."

- Maurice Lamm, *The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning*

During the last minutes of life, no-one in the presence of the deceased may leave, excepting those whose emotions are uncontrollable, or the physically ill. It is a matter of the greatest respect to watch over a person as they pass from this world to the next.

After death has been determined, the eyes and mouth of the deceased should be closed, either by family or friends.

The position of the body should be so oriented that the feet face the doorway if possible. When removing a deceased person from a room, the deceased should be removed feet first.

The deceased should not be touched or moved except for their honour such as:

- To straighten the body if it is found in an awkward position (by touching through the bed linen)
- Adjust the bed so the body remains flat.
- Place the arms beside the body.
- Remove all pillows from around the body and leave one under the head.
- Cut off all tubes, cathodes, etc. from their source, do not pull them out.
- Do not wash the body.
- Cover the face with top sheet.

Jewellery may be left on the body, as we remove and return it to the family.

From the moment of death until the burial, the deceased should not be left alone.

We appreciate your co-operation and assistance in the removal of the body from the hospital /nursing home to the care of our funeral parlour by;

- 1/ Telephone the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha on 03 9534 0208 (press 1) 24 hours/ 7 days
- 2/ When the doctor has certified the death of the patient, please attempt to ensure the Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) is issued immediately. If you have difficulties in obtaining the MCCD, would you please explain to the family that this may impede the removal of the deceased from the hospital.