

What We Do

The Aleph Institute provides welcome relief for Jews who have been virtually forgotten by traditional American Jewish organizations. Aleph battles against the challenging odds of obtaining adequate staff, money, and time to organize a wealth of programs designed to help not only the prisoners themselves, but their families as well. These programs spread the wellsprings of Jewish wisdom, knowledge and understanding to all who request it, regardless of who they are or their ability to pay.

Mission Statement

Aleph Institute is a not-for-profit Jewish religious, educational, humanitarian organization, serving the Jewish community. We offer a multitude of services to those in Prisons and long term medical facilities, and anywhere Jews are isolated from a Jewish community.

Emphasizing “no Jew is forgotten” and “no Jew is alone.”

“The Jew *wants* burial. No matter how Jewishly aware or active a person was during their lifetime, choosing a traditional Jewish burial declares, “I may not have been a perfect Jew, but I’m a proud one. I want to be buried as Jews have been for thousands of years. I owe it to my ancestors. I owe it to my descendants. I owe it to my body—and I owe it to my soul.”

THE ALEPH INSTITUTE

Hyman & Martha Rogal Center

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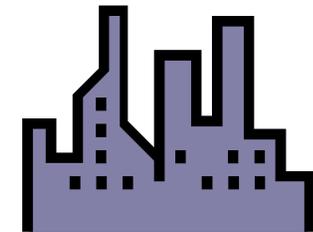
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בס"ד

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JEWISH BURIAL IN PRISON



Importance of Jewish Burial

"Earth you are, and to earth you will return," were G-d's words to Adam, the first human being (Genesis 3:19). In the words of King Solomon, "And the earth returns to the land as it was, and the spirit returns to G-d, who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:7). The next stage in the continuing saga of a human life is that the body should return to the earth, the source of all physical life, and be reunited with it, just as the soul returns to its divine root.

Indeed, these two "returns" are coupled. The earth is the source of physical life because G-d's essence resides within it in a deeply hidden but profoundly real way. The natural decomposition of the body into the earth allows the expeditious return of the soul to its source.

It is therefore of utmost importance to preserve the **integrity of the body**, and to allow the **burial to occur as soon as possible after death**. The in-between state is most difficult for the soul, as it has no body with which to relate to our world, and neither is it free of its tenuous bonds to our world to see things from the purely spiritual perspective. The body's "returning to the earth" is directly commensurate with the soul's ability to return to the supernal Source from which it is drawn.

Interment in the earth is also integral to the process of the *techiat ha-meitim*, the **future resurrection of the dead**. As the first human being was initially formed from the earth, so, too, when the dead are brought back to life in the World to Come, their bodies will be reformed from the earth in which they have been interred.

Arrangements for burial

The Aleph Institute in cooperation with other local Jewish agencies have made the necessary arrangements to pick up the deceased from the prison, and make the necessary arrangements for burial in accordance with Jewish law.

These arrangements are made with no financial burden to the grieving family; all arrangements are made with utmost respect and dignity, and once again with no burden to the family.

In order for the *niftar* (deceased) to be released to Aleph Institute. The Aleph Institute has to be notified of the passing of the inmate. Therefore an amendment has to be made on the 'advance directives' form each inmate makes at the institution.

This is the amendment that has to be modified on the "Advance Directives". Please note that once the amendment has been made, it must be once again notarized.

Once the amendment has been made, please notify next of kin of the change, and please notify "The Aleph Institute" via mail.

Add the following to "Advance Directives" form on file in the prison.

NOTIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS UPON DEATH

1. Get a legal pronouncement of death.
2. I would like The Aleph Institute to be notified at 412.421.0111 (or if no one is reached at that number at 412-860-0927) and an e-mail sent to rabbivogel@alephne.org, to be picked up for ritual religious burial.

_____ AGREE _____ DISAGREE

3. Notify next of kin as listed in this document of this request

NAME OF NEXT OF KIN:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

E-MAIL ADDRESS: