

# 10 “Good to Know” Tips

In order to ease the anticipation of what happens next, we have developed this partial guide to provide guidance and helpful information.

1. **Call Mount Sinai at 323-469-6000** to report the passing of your loved one as soon as possible. We have staff on-site 24/7/365.
2. **Gather the following information** as it will be needed for your loved one; date of birth, current location, social security number, the doctor’s name, phone number, and fax number.
3. **Set an appointment to make funeral arrangements.** During your initial call we will ask if you have purchased or intend to purchase property with us. Mount Sinai is a full service mortuary and you do not need to choose us as your designated cemetery to use our services. However, we offer a variety of spaces within each of our parks including our newest addition, Teva, our natural burial grove.
4. **We make traditional burial accessible to the entire Jewish community.** If you are interested in our Chevra Kadisha, which involves the *shmira* (guarding of your loved one), *tahara* (ritual purification) and dressing of your loved one in a *tachrichim*, we can discuss this option with you.
5. **Notify your Rabbi** and get a range of available times for the service. Due to the fact that it takes time for all necessary documents and permits to be gathered, filed, and approved by the county, please note that your preferred funeral date and time may not be possible or available.
6. **Prepare for your arrangements.** If there is no Advance Planning record, your dedicated Memorial Counselor will cover all aspects of the service including, but not limited to: any Funeral Trust and Deeds, your rabbi, speakers, music, casket, flowers, clothing, number of death certificates, chapel service and/or graveside service, Hebrew name, maiden name, place of birth, parents’ place of birth and their Hebrew names. If your loved one was a veteran please have available their DD214.
7. **Identify the next-of-kin** or who will be responsible for making the funeral arrangements. Please note, that to have anyone other than the next-of-kin sign the mortuary paperwork, an Advance Healthcare Directive will need to have been executed. Contact our **Advance Planning Department at 323-769-1330** for more information on Advance Healthcare Directives
8. **Keep in mind** that at the time of need, burial property and mortuary services must be paid in full and that life insurance settlements may not be immediately available.
9. **Consider if/how you will host a shiva or a reception and where.** Mount Sinai offers the use of our Zeigler Center to make offering receptions easier. Ask us how we can help.
10. **We often discover that the well of grief is deeper than we imagine, even when we believe we have prepared for the inevitable.** It is often disorienting and overwhelming at the time of need. While it may be difficult, we encourage you to initiate the Advance Planning conversation and encourage you to engage in thoughtful conversation with your family and loved ones.