



INSTRUCTIONS
FOR CLOTHING
THE DEAD
WHO HAVE
RECEIVED
THEIR
ENDOWMENTS



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLOTHING THE DEAD WHO HAVE RECEIVED THEIR ENDOWMENTS

TEMPLE BURIAL CLOTHING

"Where possible, endowed members should be buried in temple clothing when they die. Where cultural traditions or burial practices make this inappropriate or difficult, the clothing may be folded and placed next to the body in the casket.

"Only members who have been endowed may be buried in temple clothing. . . . However, persons whose blessings have not been restored after excommunication or name removal may not be buried in temple clothing" (*Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 1: Stake Presidencies and Bishoprics* [1998], 70). For further information, see the *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 1*, 70.

KEEPING TEMPLE CLOTHING FOR BURIAL ON HAND IN STAKES AND DISTRICTS

In areas where temple burial clothing may be difficult to obtain in time for burial, stake and district presidents should keep on hand two complete sets of medium-sized clothing, one for a man and one for a woman. This clothing should be kept in a properly safeguarded place that the stake or district president designates. Bishops, branch presidents, and Relief Society presidents should be informed of the availability of this clothing.

WHO SHOULD DRESS A DECEASED MAN OR WOMAN FOR BURIAL

A member who is to be buried in temple clothing may be dressed by an endowed family member of the same gender. If a family member is not available, the bishop assigns an endowed man to dress a deceased man. The bishop asks the Relief Society president to assign an endowed woman to dress a deceased woman.

In some areas only a licensed mortician or his employee is allowed to handle a deceased body. Where such a regulation exists, an endowed member of the family or an endowed person assigned by or under the direction of the bishop should ensure that the clothing has been properly placed on the body. Morticians are usually willing to cooperate in this matter; some permit a family member or an assigned person to be present at the time the temple clothing is placed on the body.

ARTICLES NECESSARY FOR BURIAL IN TEMPLE CLOTHING FOR MEN

Temple garments, white socks, shirt and trousers (or white, approved one-piece suit if preferred), white tie, robe, apron, sash, white shoes or slippers, and cap. (A coat is not a part of the temple clothing for burial.)

FOR WOMEN

Temple garments, white hose, slip, dress, robe, apron, sash, white shoes or slippers, and veil.

VIEWING OF THE DECEASED

If a viewing takes place under circumstances where a majority of the persons attending the viewing will not understand the sacred meaning of the clothing and thus might be led to question, authorization should be given by the local priesthood authority, after consultation with the family, to use a plain white covering over the apron. The covering should be removed at the time the casket is closed.

PROCEDURE FOR DRESSING THE DECEASED

The body should be thoroughly washed, and if the deceased is a man, the face shaved, or the beard trimmed, according to the practice of the person while living. A woman's hair should be arranged according to the style usually worn by her while living.

The clothing should be white throughout, except the apron. It does not need to be new but should be clean. The member's own temple clothing may be used.

THE GARMENTS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE BODY FIRST.

The other articles of clothing should then be placed on the body: socks, white shirt and trousers (or one-piece approved suit), and tie for men; hose, white slip, and dress for women.

The robe should be placed on the right shoulder and tied with the drawstring at the left waistline.

The apron should be secured around the waist with a bow, or hook clasp, in the back.

The sash should be placed around the waist and tied in a bow over the left hip. It should be

placed to cover the top of the apron, the ribbon strings of the apron, and the drawstring of the robe.

The shoes or slippers should be placed on the feet over the socks or hose.

The man's cap is usually placed at the side of the body until time to close the casket, at which time it should be placed on the head with the bow over the left ear and cap string (at the opposite side of the cap) attached to the robe at the right shoulder. This should be done by someone who is approved by the bishop.

The woman's veil should be placed on the head with the shorter underveil next to the head, or the short ruffled part (if the veil has a cap) at the back of the neck, and with part of the hair showing below the veil over the forehead. The body of the veil may be softly draped on the pillow at the back of the head until time to close the casket, at which time it is drawn over the face by someone who is approved by the bishop.

In no instance should a flower or jewelry be placed on the temple clothing. If desired, a white handkerchief may be placed in a woman's hand.