

Tearing Garments in Mourning

Ref: *Sefer Shoftim, Hilchot Evel, Chapters 8–9*

	Parents	Other relatives	Explanation
Rend while standing	✓	✓	
Garment torn in front and at the top	✓	✓	Except <i>Kohen Gadol</i> who tears from the bottom
Upper Garment torn	✓	✓	
Length of tear	Extend to heart	1 tefach (less than for parents)	
Use of instrument	×	✓	
Border has to be torn	✓	×	
Done in public	✓	×	
Tear outer garment	✓	×	
Uncovers shoulder	✓	×	Not done these days
Childs garment torn	✓	✓	
Tearing for father in law or mother in law	✓		
Period for tearing	Within 30 days	Within 7 days	
Tearing garments of a dangerously ill person	×	×	It may be dangerous for his life
Extending tear with multiple deaths	Start new tear	Extend tear	


TEARING GARMENTS FOR COMMUNAL FIGURES

Whenever a person tears his garment for the loss of a relative, he may sew the tear in a temporary fashion after **7 days**, and in a permanent fashion after **30 days**. For a parent he may only sew after **30 days** but he may never mend it.

A woman should tear, and then sew immediately, due to modesty (even for a parent)

Garments also have to be torn for the following

- His Torah teacher. Mourning is for 1 day. Tear to reveal heart.
- A *Nasi*. Can mend a tear in a temporary manner. Tear to reveal heart, and uncovers both shoulders.

 **Reminder:**
Pack on *Nasi*



- The *Av Bet Din*. Tear to reveal heart, and uncovers left shoulder.
- When majority of a community is slain. Tear to reveal heart.
- Hears cursing of G-d's name. Tear to reveal heart.
- Sees burning of *Sefer Torah* i.e. when it was burnt on purpose. Tear to reveal heart.
- Sees destruction of cities of Judah, Jerusalem or *Bet Hamikdash*. Tear to reveal heart.
- Present when anyone's soul expires. Tears **1 tefach**.
- A virtuous person. Tears **1 tefach**
- A Sage. Can mend tear after funeral. Mourning is only for 1 day. If one hears that a Sage died, tear takes place only at time of eulogising. Tear to reveal heart.

For teacher, *Nasi* etc, one should tear and then only mend temporarily (never permanently)
Mourning here is usually only for **1 day**.

	Parents	Other relatives	Teacher	<i>Nasi</i>	<i>Av Bet Din</i>	Sage	Miscellaneous	Majority of community die
Repair of tear	Can sew after 30 days but can never mend	Sew after 7 days and mend after 30	May be sewn irregularly but never mended	Sewn irregularly but never mended	Sewn irregularly but never mended	May mend on following day	Woman tears and repairs immediately	
Extent of tear	Reveals heart i.e. greater than 1 tefach	Only 1 tefach	Reveals heart	Reveals heart and uncovers both arms	Reveals heart and uncovers left arm		Present by any person when soul expires – tears 1 tefach . Similarly for destruction of Torah scroll, seeing destruction of <i>Yerushalayim</i> etc.	Reveals heart
Length of mourning			1 day			1 day		