

Judaism and Law Enforcement





Basic Principles of Faith



- Belief in one God
 - No Messiah
 - Jesus is not a figure in the Jewish Belief
- Sabbath (Shabbat) begins on Friday at sundown and ends an hour after sundown on Saturday
- Jewish Dietary practice is called Kosher or Kashrut
- Some Jewish people have head coverings
- Some Jewish people do not touch people of the opposite sex
- It is important to understand that Jewish belief and practice can be a spectrum

Shabbat Observances



- The following practices are under the strictest observance levels
- Some Jews may observe all, none or in some of the following ways
 - Under strict Shabbat observances, Jews do not:
 - Use electronics (including cell phones)
 - Drive vehicles
 - Carry unnecessary objects
 - Engage in work or commerce
 - Under strict Shabbat observances, Jews do:
 - Drink wine or grape juice on Friday night
 - Eat a special bread called Challah
 - Light candles on Friday night
 - Attend services on Friday night and Saturday morning
 - Study Torah (5 books of Moses) on Saturday



Kosher

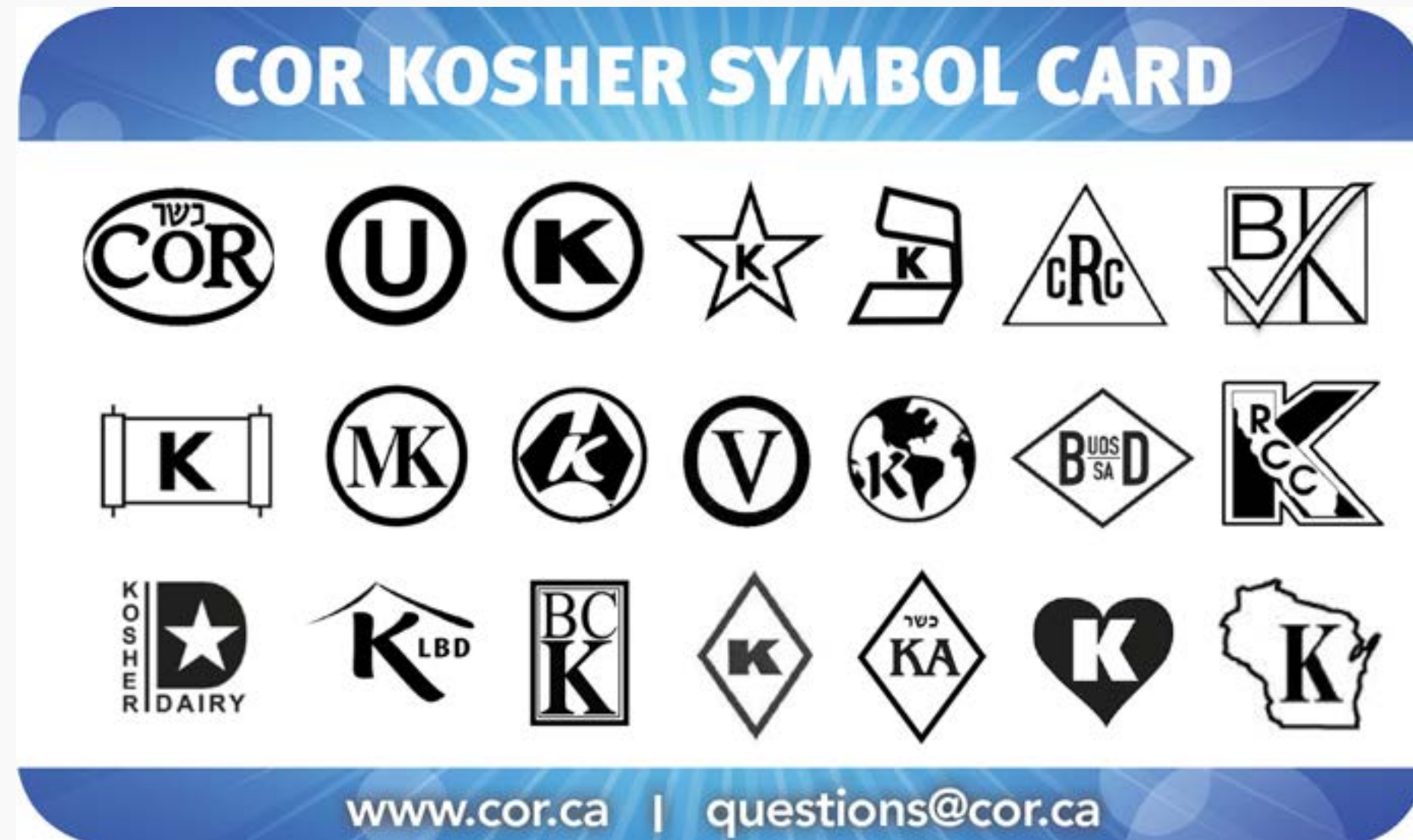


- The following practices are under the strictest observance levels
- Some Jews may observe all, none, or in some of the following ways
 - Under Kashrut, Jews cannot eat
 - Pork, shellfish, fish that do not have fins or scales (ex. Eel, catfish)
 - Meat and milk in the same meal. Different groups of Jews have different wait times between milk and meat, most common is waiting 3 hours between eating meat and eating milk
- Some Jews have separate dishes for food with milk and those with meat, and do not eat from microwaves or ovens that are used to prepare non-Kosher food
- Some Jews eat only certified Kosher meat, which is killed in a certain way



Kosher (continued)

- The following symbols on food can tell you if something is certified kosher. Some foods like produce and milk do not require kosher certification
- A small “D” next to a kosher symbol means this is for dairy meals
- Pareve means that it contains neither milk nor meat and can be used in either meals



Head Coverings

- A skullcap is called either a “Kippah” or “Yarmulke” (pronounced yah-mah-kah)
 - Some Jews wear constantly, others never, others just when they pray
 - Kippot (plural) come in different shapes, sizes, fabrics
 - Traditionally they are just worn by men, but some progressive women wear them too
- Orthodox women who are married wear a sheitel, which is a wig or hair covering



Major Holidays



- Certain Jewish holidays (Rosh Hashanah 48 hours, Yom Kippur, 1st, 2nd & 8th days of Sukkot, Simchat Torah 1st, 2nd, 7th & 8th days of Passover, and Shavuot 48 hours) are observed with the same stringency as Shabbat in terms of work, electricity, etc.
- *Rosh Hashanah* – Occurs sometime in September, one of the holiest days of the year. Is the Jewish new year
- *Yom Kippur* – Most important holiday of the year, occurs in September or October. Includes a 25 hour fast of food and water for those medically able to. Jews also do not wear leather, bathe or engage in sexual activity on this day
- *Sukkot*, 7 day festival in September or October. Involves sitting in a temporary booth, hut. Shaking a lulav (3 branches) and etrog (looks like a giant lemon, must have a brown tip on end that doesn't break off)
- *Simchat Torah* – October. Involves finishing reading the Torah and starting it over. A big party.
- *Chanukah/Hanukkah* – Not a religiously stringent holiday. 8 days and happens between end of November and beginning of January. Involves lighting nightly a 9 branched menorah called a Chanukiah



Major Holidays (continued)



- *Purim* – Happens in March. People dress up in costumes, drink a ton of alcohol and read from the Book of Esther
- *Passover* – a 7 to 8 day (depending on observance) holiday in March or April. A very important holiday. First night there is usually a special dinner called a “Seder” where we retell the story of the exodus from Egypt. There are many dietary restrictions which vary among groups of Jews during this week. No bread among many other things, eat a cracker called Matzah. Food must be certified Kosher for Passover
- *Shavuot* – A 1 to 2 day holiday in May or June. Involves reading 10 commandments, deep biblical study and eating dairy
- *Tisha B’Av* – the saddest day in the calendar, either in July or August. 25 hour full fast of water and food, no bathing, sex or wearing leather, shoes are untied.



Jewish Diversity



- Jewish people can have different conceptions of God, or may not believe in God at all
- There are many different branches of Judaism. The three largest in the US are Reform, Conservative & Orthodox (most strict). In Reform Judaism, if either mother or father is Jewish and you only practice Judaism, you are Jewish. In Conservative or Orthodox, mother must be Jewish
- Converts are Jews. Conversion must be overseen by a rabbi.
- Most American Jews are Caucasian (called Ashkenazi Jews), but Jews can be of any ethnic background. In Utah, we have Jews who are black, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, Middle Eastern and Pacific Islander
- Reform and Conservative Judaism are very welcoming of LGBTQ+ individuals
- The African American woman in the picture is a rabbi



Jewish Leadership



- Jewish clergy include
 - Rabbis – spiritual leaders and teachers who are ordained in seminaries (pictured Rabbi Sam Spector of Salt Lake City)
 - Cantors – spiritual leaders who lead ritual and prayers through music
 - Chaplains – often chaplains are rabbis, but not always. Chaplains serve in hospitals, prisons, and the military
 - Aside from Orthodox Judaism, women can be rabbis and cantors
- The primary Jewish organizations include:
 - United Jewish Federation of Utah (umbrella organization for Utah)
 - Hillel of Utah (organization for college students)
 - Jewish Family Services (Social services organization)
 - Jewish Community Center



Jewish Leadership



- There is an estimated 5000 Jews in Utah (I suspect more)
 - Synagogues (Jewish places of worship)
 - Salt Lake City
 - Congregation Kol Ami (Reform and Conservative)
 - Chavurah B'Yachad (Reconstructionist)
 - Chabad (Orthodox)
 - Park City
 - Temple Har Shalom (Reform)
 - Chabad (Orthodox)
 - St. George
 - Beit Chaverim (Unaffiliated, progressive)
 - Chabad (Orthodox)
 - Ogden
 - Congregation BrithSholem (Reform)



Ways to Identify Someone Jewish



- *Most Jewish people look like anyone else and there are no identifying markers*
- *Many Orthodox men have beards, wear a kippah, dress in black, and sometimes have a brimmed hat. Some have curls on their sideburns called Peyas or Peyot. Some will have fringes coming out below their shirt called Tzitzit*
- *Many Orthodox women wear long skirts, long sleeved shirts, and have their hair covered*
- *Many Jews wear necklaces with Jewish symbols like a Star of David (6 pointed star), a hamsa (hand), or חַי necklace (pronounced Hai, meaning life)*



Jewish and Police Relations



- *Overall, especially in Utah, Jews and police have very good relations. We have trust and depend on the police to keep us safe*
 - *SLCPD, Unified PD, FBI, DHS, and Utah Highway Patrol work closely with our local synagogues*
 - *Despite making up 2% of the US population, Jews are the largest target of reported hate crime violence in the US*
 - *Threats come primarily from White Supremacists and Muslim extremist groups. They come from those on the far right and far left and are heightened when there is conflict in Israel*



Areas of Mistrust



- Stereotypes in certain parts of the country (rural, Deep South) of associating police with white supremacy make Jews uneasy more so than urban areas
 - During the Civil Rights Movement, police in the Deep South often looked the other way during or directly committed acts of violence or murder against Jewish activists
- American Jews are predominately (though not universally) liberal and tend to have a lot of sympathy for the Black Lives Matter cause
- Jews of color may have mistrust of police officers less for Jewish identity but more for racial profiling experiences



Interactions



- In terms of notifying of a death, handling a domestic violence situation, or approaching a juvenile, there is not too much difference between Jews and others. In a particularly tragic situation, it may be best to call a rabbi to accompany the officer.
- It might be most appropriate if a person appears religious to have an officer of the same sex engage in physical contact with the subject as opposed to an officer of the opposite sex
- Many Jews do not use electricity on Shabbat and may not be able to post bail, call or pick up a phone (good to show up in person), or use a car
- Remember the phrase Pikuah Nefesh (saving a life), this overrides all laws of Shabbat. A Jew is commanded to ride in a car or dial 911 if it is a life or death situation, even if it is Shabbat.



What Police Should Know About Individuals in Custody



- Please be aware of any dietary or Sabbath restrictions an individual may have
 - Have Kosher food on hand
 - Be wary that it is not uncommon for some individuals in prisons to pretend to be Jewish to get out of doing certain activities or attempting to acquire Kosher food, which may taste better, or as it is separately packaged, may be traded for other items in prison
- Try to have religious Jews handled by officers of the same sex



Jewish Chaplaincy Resources



- The Aleph Institute, chaplains for families of incarcerated people and chaplains
<https://aleph-institute.org/wp/>
- American Correctional Chaplains Association <http://www.correctionalchaplains.org/>
- Jewish Prisoner Services International <https://jpsi.org/>

