

Passing On of the Spirit Ceremony by Chief Talks With Trees

Death is a part of this life, and may be a difficult time for those who have lost loved ones. Native American cultures have many different belief systems regarding the state of the dead. Even among other world religions there are many different ideas about what happens when we die. This Ceremony should be unique to the belief system of those who have lost their loved one.

The Medicine Person conducting such a ceremony should discuss with the family what their particular belief system is and perform a specific ceremony in accordance to the custom of the grieving family. The whole idea of this Ceremony is to bring comfort to the family of the deceased loved one. The New Haven Native American Church will not dictate how individual services are held, however, it is our fervent hope that we can provide a comforting experience to those who we are called to serve.

It is our experience that when loved ones, no matter what the age, assist in the preparation of the deceased body and participate in the Passing On of the Spirit Ceremony, great spiritual healing occurs. This is a time of service and releasing emotions.

More information and examples will be forthcoming.

*Any Medicine Persons that feels called by the Spirit may perform the Passing On of the Spirit Ceremony for their loved ones. If they feel called by the Spirit to perform the Ceremony for others, it is very important that they have an established knowledge of the rituals and customs of the grieving family. Also the ability to empathize with the grieving family and be able to give them comfort in their time of need is highly important.