

THE ROTHMAN
PREVIEW EDITION

COMPLIMENTARY
COPY

לבריותי כל זכנס לתורה לחופה ולמשאית
לבריותי כל זכנס לתורה לחופה ולמשאית

BRIS



CHECKLIST

לבריותי כל זכנס לתורה לחופה ולמשאית
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THIS CHECKLIST IS NOT SHAIMOS

DAVENING KIBBUDIM

Shacharis שַׁחֲרִית _____

(Musaf מוֹסַף): _____

If there's Leining, (Monday & Thursday, a fast day, Rosh Chodesh, Yom Tov);

Psicha פְּסִיחָה _____

Kohen, Levi, Yisroel כֹּהֵן, לֵוִי, יִשְׂרָאֵל _____

Hagba & Gelila הַגְּבָה וְגִלְיָלָה _____

(If the Bris falls out on a fast day- boy under Bar Mitzva drinks the wine)

BRIS KIBBUDIM

Shaim Hatinyok שֵׁם הַתִּיּוֹק _____

Kvatter/Kvaterin* קְוֹאֲטֶר _____

Husband and wife who bring the baby into the shul/hall. This kibbud is a segula for children

Sandek סַנְדֵּק _____

Distinguished individual who holds the baby on his lap during the Bris (often a Rav, Rosh yeshiva, or grandfather)

M'Hasandek מְהַסְנֵדֵק _____

(Optional, takes baby from Sandek's lap and gives him to standing Sandek, usually done by Mohel)

Kisei Shel Eliyahu כִּסֵּי שֵׁל אֱלִיָּהוּ _____

Baby is temporarily placed on the chair of Eliyahu

Person who places baby temporarily on the chair of Eliyahu

Me Yad Hakisei מֵי יַד הַכִּסֵּי _____

The person taking the baby from Kisei Shel Eliyahu and handing over the baby to the father, who then puts the baby on the Sandek's lap

Min HaKisei מִן הַכִּסֵּי _____

The person taking the baby from the Sandek and giving him to the person who receives the Kibbud of Amidah Al Habracha

Amidah L'Brachah עֲמִידָה לְבְרָכָה _____

The person who holds the baby when the Brachos are said

Mevareich מְבַרֵּךְ _____

The person who says the two Brachos following the Bris

Kriyas HaShem קְרִיאַת הַשֵּׁם _____

The Bracha that gives the baby his name

Amidah Shniyah עֲמִידָה שְׁנִיָּה _____

The person who holds the baby during Kriyas Hashaim and then returns him to the Kvaterin who sends the baby back to his mother (Verbally designate Mohel as agent)

BENTCHING \ HARACHAMONS

בְּרַכַּת הַמִּזוֹן \ הָרַחֲמָנוּ

1. Hamotzi הַמּוֹצֵיא _____

2. Leader _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

BACKUPS FOR KIBBUDIM

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

* If you need more Kibbudim, some have a Minhag to honor 4 more people with Hagashos between Kvatter and Kisei Shel Eliyahu.

BRIS MILAH

The *Bris Milah* (ritual circumcision) takes place when a baby boy is eight days old (or older, in case of illness or other extenuating circumstances). Following the ceremony, we celebrate the baby's arrival into the world, and this most meaningful occasion.

BEFORE BABY IS BORN

(SUBJECT TO MINHAG)

- Purchase or borrow an infant car seat and learn how to install it
- Arrange a night nurse or other assistance
- Consider keeping the umbilical cord for the future for stem cell purposes

WHEN THE BABY IS BORN

- Ask pediatrician in the hospital if baby is jaundiced. Get bilirubin count and give over to *Mohel*. If the baby is jaundiced, make sure he is hydrated. He should be producing 6 wet diapers a day. If he isn't wetting enough, feed more or give formula after each feed to up the number of wet diapers and wash out the bilirubin
- Baby's discharge papers from hospital
- Tell guests the date, time, and location of the *Bris* (do not invite them)

- Reserve a *Mohel* and meet with him
- E-mail *Shuls*
- Arrange location of the *Bris* and inform the *Mohel*
- Pick up infant car seat
- Decide on a Hebrew and English name
- Keep emergency number for doctor and discharge papers in an accessible location (*Mohelim* often want to see them, especially if the *Bris* is late)
- Note parents' full Jewish names
- Confirm the night nurse or other assistance
- Arrange to have meals made for the first week or two
- Send flowers or gift to the new mommy
- Arrange for the *Shalom Zachar*
- Arrange *Peckelach* and food for the *Vach Nacht*
- Notify the doctor and *Mohel* if there is any change in the baby's condition
- Put away birth certificate and have extra copies for future
- Determine if you need a lactation consultant or La Leche Personnel to help with feeding
- Reserve a *Mohel* and meet with him
- Inform family, friends, and *Shul* bulletin
- Assign who is *Sandek* and who is *Kvatter*
- Use worksheet on back cover to prepare a list of *Kibbudim* and backup *Kibbudim*
- Arrange speakers and/or write speech, discuss time guidelines
- Set up chairs up front for the people receiving *Kibbudim* and show them their seat
- In case of bad weather, have the *Shul/hall's* contact information
- Book *Shul/hall* and confirm date and time
- Find out combination and alarm of *Shul/hall*
- Get *Bris* outfit. Leave out the matching shoes that come with the outfit since the child is covered in a blanket anyway, and they will get soiled or lost. Generally, the *Mohel* will take them off even before the *Bris* begins
- Let people who are receiving a *Kibbud* know right away
- Set up Skype/Facetime and make sure viewers have passwords if needed. Verify internet access beforehand
- Arrange for easy accessible parking for guests and escort elderly relatives and the mommy and baby
- Set aside reserved tables for family and out of town guests
- Confirm all vendors
- Print out directions to hall/*Shul* and alternate route
- Arrange the catering and the location of the *Seudah*
- Book photographer/videographer, and set up time for pictures and video
- Book florist – ask about balloons, etc.
- Arrange for music
- Set up a table for the *Mohel's* utensils
- Set up a gift table
- Prepare washing station (if applicable)
- Set up a microphone and podium or stand for speeches
- Reserve chairs for grandparents and the elderly
- Reserve tables for family seating
- Post on community website(s)
- Practice *Bracha* for the *Bris* (father of baby)
- Arrange contact person for directions for guests
- Arrange for cleanup staff
- Charge phones and bring charger
- Check alcohol policy of *Shul*
- Make sleeping arrangements for out of town guests
- Arrange for babysitter/mother's helper at the *Bris*
- Inquire if there are any special Minhagim
- Arrange transportation to and from the *Bris* (Remember to have an infant car seat.)
- Check the weather

THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE BRIS

- If bad weather, make sure path and parking lot is plowed, and have contact information of *Shul/hall*

שְׁלוֹם זָכוֹר

BEFORE FRIDAY NIGHT

SHALOM ZACHOR

(ONLY FOR ASHKANAZIM)

- Inform guests of the time and location of the *Shalom Zachor*, and possibly *Bris*
- Compose *Dvar Torah*
- Buy chickpeas, cake, nosh, beer, soda, paper goods, cutlery
- E-mail friends and family
- Notify *shul* bulletins
- Emergency numbers

לַיִל שְׁמִירָה

NIGHT BEFORE THE BRIS

VACHT NACHT/LEIL SHMIRA

ALSO CALLED ZOHAR OR BRIT

YITZCHAK BY SEFARDIM

- Inform children of the time to come and say *Shema* and *Hamalach Hagoel*
 - Inform adult guests and tell them location and time of the *Vacht Nacht* (if it is your *Minhag* to have a *Seuda*).
 - If it is your *Minhag* for the father and/or *Sandek* to go to the *Mikvah*, then plan to start your day even earlier
 - Give the baby a bath and soak the *Bris* area very well
 - Give candy packages (*peckelach*) to the children
 - Prepare a meal and play music (if *Minhag*)
 - Father of baby stays up to learn *Torah* (if able to)
 - Compose *Dvar Torah*
 - Set TWO alarm clocks
- The *Mohel's* contact information
 - 2 *Kiddush* cups and *Kosher* sweet wine/grape juice
 - Corkscrew for wine
 - Besamim* (*Sefardim*)
 - A *Shofer* (*Sefardi Minhag*)
 - 3 *Taleisim*
 - List of *Kibbudim*
 - Relevant *Seforim*
 - Bris* pillow (fancy ones can be obtained from *gemachim*), white pillow case
 - Father's *Tallis* and *Tefillin*
 - Dvar Torah*/Speech
 - Yarmulkas* for baby and guests
 - Kisei Shel Eliyahu* and "sturdy" chair for *Sandek*
 - Tehillim* cards
 - Ceremonial *Challah*
 - Camera, video camera, extra memory cards and batteries
 - Cell phone and charger
 - Check book/cash to pay vendors and *Mohel*
 - Tissues
 - Waste basket
 - Bentchers/Siddurim*
 - Candles and Matches
 - Special *Tefillah* for mother when she gives her son over (*Shevet Musar perek 24*)
 - List of *Brachos* for *Bentching*
 - List of people to thank, especially wife, parents, in-laws, siblings, people who traveled far, relatives, elderly, *Rebbeim*

ITEMS TO BRING TO THE BRIS

- Toys and snacks for older siblings
 - Foil (for people rushing to work to wrap up food)
 - Briefcases, if children are going straight from *Bris* to school
 - Stool for *Sandek* (if applicable)
 - Bentchers* and/or *Siddurim* available for *Bentching*
 - If doing yourself, bring tablecloths, paper goods, food, and drinks, appoint someone to make sure that everything refrigerated is set out on the tables in the morning, before everyone heads for the hall
 - A good source of light (flashlight)
 - Community phone book
 - A *Kiddush* cup for the baby to use when he gets older (optional)
- Wipes Alcohol-free wipes (more sensitive to area), powder and lotion
 - Bottles, pacifiers
 - Rubbing alcohol
 - Receiving blanket and extra blankets
 - Nursing pads, burp cloths
 - Antibiotic ointment – Bacitracin, tube of Vaseline
 - Extra change of clothing
 - Infant car seat (put in night before)
 - Stroller

AT THE MEAL

- Take family pictures
- Appoint someone to lead *Zemiros*
- Find the leader of *Bentching* and signal him when to begin
- Arrange washing stations

AFTER THE BRIS

- Take *Bentchers*
- Pay *Mohel*
- Pay vendors
- Pay hall/*Shul*
- Give away flowers/balloons
- Have the *Mohel* check the baby and arrange for a house visit as well. Ask what symptoms are normal, and if there are any symptoms to be on alert for after the *bris* is performed
- Bring home leftover food (distribute to needy families)
- Return *Bris* pillow to *Gemach* (if borrowed)
- Arrange meals for the week or direct people to person arranging them

FOR THE BABY

- Ask your *Mohel* if he would like you to purchase any specific brand or type of the items listed here and, if he has any specific directives for the preparations since supplies and directives vary by *Mohel*
- Bottle of sugar water
- Disposable 2-3 of each and cloth, 3-4 of each
- Find out from *Mohel* which supplies are needed on the Men's side and which are needed on the Women's side during *Bris* and organize accordingly
- Gauze pads, Infant Tylenol

- Create photo album
- Email photos
- Write thank you notes for gifts
- Check before leaving to make sure you didn't leave anything at the hall
- The Bacitracin should be put on the area for 3 days. If *Shabbos* is one of those days, make sure to tear open the gauze wrappers before *Shabbos* and make sure not to smear the bacitracin on *Shabbos*
- Keep the *Bris* area double-diapered during the next 3 days for added comfort

פְּדִיּוֹן הַבֵּן FOR THE PIDYON HABEN

- Calculate the 31st day after the baby's birth
- Arrange for a *Kohen* to officiate
- Arrange the hall and the caterer/meal
- Large silver tray
- Pillow to cushion the tray
- Wine or grape juice and corkscrew
- Five silver coins
- Garlic and sugar cube packets to distribute
- Jewelry to drape over the baby

- Bentchers*
- Diapers and baby paraphernalia
- Candles and candlesticks to place on tables, matches or lighter
- Package of safety pins (for pinning on the jewelry)
- Kiddush* Cup
- Siddur* (for the ceremony) and *Bentchers* for all



IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS AND E-MAILS

Name	Number	Email
Rav / president of Shul / hall coordinator _____	_____	_____
Mother _____	_____	_____
Father _____	_____	_____
Mohel _____	_____	_____
Sandek _____	_____	_____
Music _____	_____	_____
Florist _____	_____	_____
Caterer _____	_____	_____
Shul / hall Photographer / videographer _____	_____	_____
Rabbi _____	_____	_____
Hatzolah _____	_____	_____
Shomrim _____	_____	_____
Chaverim _____	_____	_____

SPECIAL MINHAGIM/CUSTOMS AND HALACHOS IN KLAL YISROEL:

- ❖ *Sefardim* hang *Kabbalistic* charts on the walls and doors of the child's room against 'evil spirits'. Some put the *Milah* knife under the child's pillow in the night before the *Bris*
- ❖ *Sefardim* say *Shechiyanu* after the *Bracha* on the *Milah* and a *Shofar* is also blown at the *Bris*
- ❖ It is a custom for both *Ashkenazi* and *Sefardi* fathers to try to learn *Torah* all night before the baby's *Bris*

HALACHOS AND MINYANIM

- ❖ All those present, except the *Sandek* stand for the duration of the *Bris*
- ❖ The father, *Sandek* and *Mohel* all go to the *mikvah* in the morning before the *Bris*
- ❖ Some smell *Bisamim* at the *Bris*
- ❖ During the *Seuda*, it is a *Minhag* to give *Tzedaka* and sing *Z'miros*
- ❖ The father does not go to work until the *Milah* is over
- ❖ The *Bris Seuda* and *Pidyon Haben* are *Seudas Mitzvos*. It is nice therefore for the meal to include meat and wine, and for there to be a *Minyan* for *Bentching*
- ❖ The parents and son dress for the occasion to show their love of the *Mitzvos*

IMPORTANT BRIS INFORMATION FOR THE MOHEL:

Child's Hebrew Name (name that child will be named):

Child's Father's Hebrew name:

The name he is called by:

Child's Father's status: (check off)

Kohen כהן _____

Levi לוי _____

Yisroel ישראל _____

Child's Mother's Hebrew name, name she is called by:

Phone number of the family:

Child's Pediatrician:

THINGS TO NOTE:

- If there is a change in the baby's health, notify the pediatrician and mohel immediately. Call 911/hospital/Hatzalah in case of an emergency
- Make sure the baby is fed one hour prior to the *bris* but no sooner than ½ hour before the *Bris*
- Do not apply diaper rash cream starting from the night before the *Bris* (you may put on cream after the *Bris*)
- Dress the baby in a "onesie" underneath the *Bris* outfit
- Wait 5 days to give the baby a bath
- It is normal if there is a yellowish color by the healing or pinkish from dried blood
- The bandage may be taken off gently after 24 hours. If it falls off, don't put on a new one
- The father should wear *Tallis* and *Tefillin* during a *Bris* held during the week
- If not in regular *shul*: need *Sefer Torah*, *siddurim*, if *Bris* held in the *Shul* after davening
- Turn on heat or A/C in *Shul*/hall

