



THE BRIT MILAH CEREMONY

The following guide provides step-by-step information on the Brit Milah ceremony.



1. THE KVATERIN

The service begins with the mother passing the baby to the 'Kvaterin', a lady who starts the procession to the area where the Brit Milah will take place. This honour is often given to a newly married couple but can be given to any family member or friend.

2. THE PROCESSION

Often, the baby is carried on a special satin, or embroidered white pillow. If married, the Kvaterin then passes the baby to her husband, the Kvater, who completes the procession.

3. THE SANDEK

Two chairs are set out in the area where the Brit Milah will take place. The first is for the 'Sandek', who holds the baby on his knees during the Brit. This role is considered the highest honour at the ceremony. It is often given to the baby's grandfather or a Rabbi.

4. KISEI SHELIYAHU

The second chair is known as the 'kisei shel Eliyahu' (Elijah's chair). According to Jewish teachings, the Biblical prophet Elijah spiritually visits every Brit Milah to testify to the commitment of the Jewish people to this great mitzvah (commandment).



5. BLESSINGS AND NAMING

After the Mohel has made the bracha (blessing) and performed the Brit Milah, the father responds with his own bracha, followed by two more blessings recited over a cup of wine. The baby is then given his Hebrew name.

6. THE SEUDAT MITZVAH Festive Meal

Finally, a seudat mitzvah (festive meal) is served. This can typically consist of bagels and other similar snacks.

For further information, contact the Catford
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