

Preparation for the Berit Mila

Location:

Traditionally done at home, but could be anywhere. The ceremony should take place in a location with suitable dignity for the service. A Living room or Family room is fine.

The actual circumcision may take place in a more private room if you wish, but this is not typically necessary.

It is not necessary to put out chairs as it is customary for everyone to stand, and the service is not long. However, it is not forbidden to sit and some may want to - especially the Mother.

What you need for the ceremony:

Table:

It must be no smaller than a card table. An actual card table is fine, as is a kitchen or dining table. There will need to be adequate light at the location of the procedure.

Chair:

To be the Chair of Elijah. The baby can briefly sit in this chair so it may have a car seat or other baby seat placed upon it. However, some choose just to touch the baby ceremonially to the chair, and in this case any chair will do. It is commonly draped with a shawl, blanket, or Talit.

Pillow and Pillow-Case:

The baby will be placed on the pillow for the procedure. You may cover it with a decorative cover if you wish, or just a plain pillow-case.

Kiddush Cup and Sweet Wine:

For a Kiddush, and a little for the baby. Have the cup at the table, with wine in it, before the ceremony.

Candles and Candlesticks:

It is optional to light candles before the ceremony begins. So bring them if you want. Either the traditional *two or one per family member*. (Don't forget the newest member! And bring matches.)

A Talit:

We will wrap the whole family in it, so a large size is best. Don't have one? I'll bring mine.

Kippot:

If you want/expect people to wear them.

What you need for the Baby:

A Pacifier

For dipping in wine for the baby. If the baby is not using a pacifier we'll use a one of the gauze pads for this.

Gauze pads

3" x 3" are best. Sterile. Individually wrapped.

Bacitracin or Neosporin Ointment

Nothing with aloe, "pain control", etc.

Diapers and wipes

You know what these are for. Yes, people forget.

Tylenol Infant Drops

But don't give any yet.

Wastebasket and bag

Preparing the baby:

He may wear whatever you want. Easy access to the bottom half makes things easier.

Please have the entire diaper area free of ointment, cream, powder for the Berit. He

should *preferably* not eat for about 30 minutes before the procedure. If he is not

cooperative and insists on a eating . . . *feed him*. The baby may eat immediately after the procedure. If he takes a bottle, have one ready.