

THE ROTHMAN
PREVIEW EDITION

COMPLIMENTARY
COPY

לברית, כל זכנס לתורה לחופה ולמלאים
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BRIS

CHECKLIST



THIS CHECKLIST IS NOT SHAIMOS

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