

Who's Who At A Berit Mila

K'vaterin

Traditionally a woman, the K'vaterin, brings the child into the room at the beginning of the ceremony. The baby is handed to the K'vater and ultimately to the Sandek. The role of K'vaterin is generally given to a relative or friend. Often translated as *Godmother*, being a K'vaterin, though a great honor, is strictly ceremonial.

K'vater

The masculine of K'vaterin.

Sandek

The person who holds the baby during the circumcision. Most commonly a role given to a grandfather, but may be given to any family member or friend. The role of Sandek is the highest honor given at a Berit Mila. Though traditionally done on the Sandek's lap, I do the circumcision with the baby on a table while the Sandek holds him.

Sandakit

A female Sandek. Though this role is not traditionally performed by a woman, there is no reason why a woman can not perform this role.

(Note: The Sandek/Sandakit will be asked to physically hold the baby during the procedure. Most others will be able to move away if they wish. If this may be an issue please discuss this with me prior to the ceremony)

Other Roles:

Candle Lighting:

Candles are traditionally lighted prior to the Berit Mila ceremony. Either the traditional “two” candles may be lit, or one per family member.

Readers:

You may elect individuals to recite prayers, poems, or other readings as you may wish. These may be parts I have already included in the ceremony, or those you have chosen to add.

Priestly Benediction - A Prayer offered at the conclusion of the ceremony. Though typically offered by the officiant, or by a Kohen (a direct male descendent of biblical Aaron) if there is one among family or friends, anyone may be elected for this honor. They can read either the Hebrew or English or both.