



*Celebrations*

# The Bris Ceremony

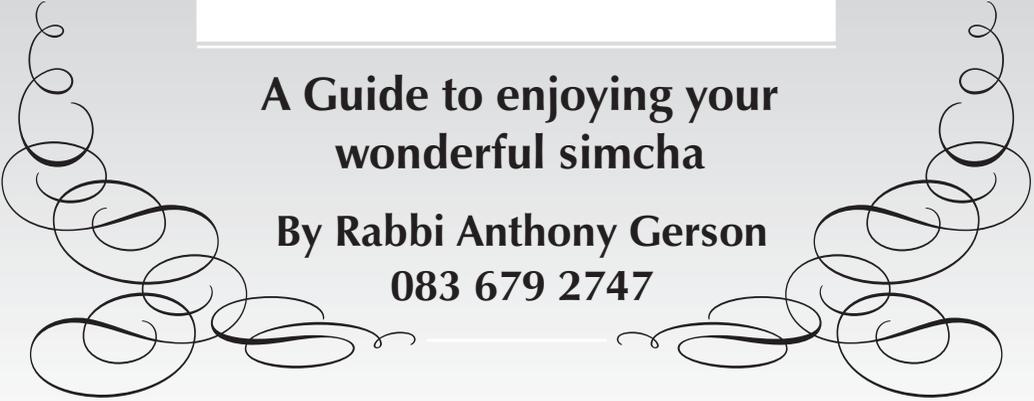
**Celebrating the birth and bris milah of**

**Date**

**A Guide to enjoying your  
wonderful simcha**

**By Rabbi Anthony Gerson**

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Please fill in the English names of the participants in the space provided.

## ORDER OF THE CEREMONY

**Kvaterin - קוטרין**

(Lady who takes the child from the mother)

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**Kvater - קוטרין**

(Man who brings the child into the room)

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**On the Throne - ליד הכסא**

(Man who places the child on the Chair of Elijah)

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**From the Throne - מהכסא**

(Man who takes the child from the chair and gives him to the father)

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**Sandek - סנדק**

(Man who holds the child for the bris)

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**Standing Sandek - עמידה לברכות**

(Man who holds the child for the name)

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**Rabbi - ברכת**

(Makes the brachot and names the child)

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**Cohen - כהן**

(Blesses the child)

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**Child's given name**

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**Child's Hebrew name**

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**Father's Hebrew name**

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**Mother's Hebrew name**

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**Additional honours**

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**PLEASE PREPARE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS  
FOR THE CEREMONY:-**

- 1 Ketuba
- 2 A sealed bottle of Kosher grape juice or wine.
- 3 A Kiddush cup
- 4 A small table for my instruments
- 5 Two dining room chairs
- 6 A regular sized firm pillow
- 7 Two towelling nappies
- 8 Six disposable nappies
- 9 Babygro
- 10 Receiving blanket
- 11 Prescribed powder/ointment
- 12 Three talleisim
- 13 One phone book
- 14 Wet wipes
- 15 5ml syringe
- 16 Calpol/Panado
- 17 Spare yarmulkas
- 18 Camera - check batteries and memory card

# AFTER CARE

## **The day of the bris...**

At the time of the bris, the mohel will place a dressing on your son. This dressing will stay on until the next day.

If you did not give the child any medication before the bris ceremony, the mohel will help you give your son a dose of Calpol or Panado shortly afterwards. If your son is still showing signs of discomfort several hours later, you can give the child one additional dose. Nursing your child on demand following the bris ceremony will also provide him with comfort he may feel unsettled for several hours or even a full day following the ceremony.

Your child should pass urine within a few hours after the bris (please call the mohel if he has not passed urine within six hours). The first time the baby urinates may sting him a little but he should not experience any discomfort from urinating after that. It is normal to notice a little blood in the nappy when the baby passes urine you may notice a pink stain. If you suspect any active bleeding (lots of bright red blood or clots on the dressing) place pressure on the penis with a piece of gauze and call the mohel.

## **The day after the bris...**

The mohel will come and remove the initial dressing and replace it with a gauze wrap (wrapped around the penis) and a gauze cover (placed over the penis).

Both the wrap and the cover will eventually fall off this can happen after a few hours, or even the following day.

If the new dressing (applied by the mohel) has not fallen off by the second day after the bris you will need to bathe the baby and let the entire dressing get saturated with water. Then gently peel off the gauze cover and unwind the gauze wrap. Dab the area dry with a soft cloth. When the wrap and cover fall off, you will need to do the following

### **If you are using powder:**

- Sprinkle powder over the shaft of the penis
- Place a smear of clear vaseline onto the clean gauze (the gauze is supplied by the mohel)
- Place the gauze over the penile area as directed by the mohel

### **If you are using medicated ointment:**

- Place a smear of ointment on clean gauze (supplied by the mohel).
- Place the gauze over the penile area

This procedure should be followed at least twice a day for two days you may need to repeat the procedure more often if the dressing gets soiled. After two days, no further dressing needs to be applied

### **What you should do if you see any bleeding**

It is normal for there to be small amounts of blood on the dressing and in the nappy especially if you have to soak the mohel's second dressing and peel it off.

If you see any active bleeding, please call the mohel immediately for advice.

## **The Healing Process**

It takes about a week for the incision to heal. It is normal to see some yellow discolouration (serus fluid) on the shaft of the penis it can take even longer (two to four weeks) for the fluid to be absorbed into the body. Do not attempt to rub the yellow fluid off.

