

BIRTH RITES IN JUDAISM-CIRCUMCISION

Circumcision is the removal of the _____. It is regarded by Jews as a sign of the _____, sealed in their flesh. Circumcision is performed on Jewish boys when they are ____ days old and on male _____ to Judaism.

Circumcision has always been regarded by Jews as a supreme sign of _____ to their religion, a sign that they are offering their whole selves to God. It is also a _____ mark of a Jew.

Brit Milah

On the 8th day after the birth of a baby boy, the ceremony of circumcision or Brit Milah takes place. It can take place in the home, in the synagogue or in a special room in a _____. On the day of the ceremony, relatives and friends are invited to share the special occasion.



The circumcision begins with prayers led by the _____. He is the specially trained and registered circumciser.

The father declares that he is presenting the child for circumcision as _____ commands.

The mohel places the baby just for a moment in an empty chair which has been put there for _____, saying: "This is the throne of Elijah: may he be remembered for good!"

- Next the father takes his son and places him on the knees of a close family friend—this person is known as the _____.



It is an honour to be asked to be the sandek and parents usually choose someone who will be a good _____ to their son as he grows up.

Just before the circumcision, the sandek grasps the baby's legs firmly and the mohel prays: "Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the _____, who has sanctified us by your commandments and has commanded us about circumcision." The Mohel swiftly snips off the foreskin.

_____ is blessed and drunk, and a sip is given to the baby.

The mohel publically announces the child's _____ name for the first time—this is the name which will be used in all religious ceremonies, such as his Bar _____, marriage and on his grave stone. Jews believe that this will also be the name called on the Day of _____.

Jews insist on circumcision for their sons, even though such an obvious _____ sign has often led to problems. For example, during the Second World War Jews were in constant fear of identification by the _____. It is, to them, a permanent sign of their _____ into Judaism.

Hebrew, Elijah, Mitzvah, hospital, Resurrection, foreskin, covenant, Nazis, mohel, sandek, membership, eight, physical, faith, distinguishing, wine, universe, example, God, converts