

The Life Cycle in Israel

Fifth Edition



Produced by the Publications Department

Laura L. Woolf - Chief Editor, English Language Publications

Ida Ben Shetreet - Director, Publications Department

Jerusalem 2011

Catalogue number - 0113311050

הודפס על ידי המדפיס הממשלתי

Table of Contents

The Life Cycle in Israel	5	מעגל החיים בישראל
Birth	6	לידה
Adoption	13	אימוץ
Marriage	14	נישואין
Burial	21	קבורה
Glossary	27	מילון
Useful Addresses	29	כתובות וטלפונים

The Life Cycle In Israel

In Israel, three main life-cycle events, birth, marriage, and death, each involve a number of official procedures. This booklet is designed to explain these procedures. It is not intended in any way to advocate any particular lifestyle or outlook, but merely to outline and explain what is necessary. Individuals are free to explore alternatives to officially recognized procedures at their own discretion.



NOTE: This is the fifth edition of this booklet, and hereby nullifies all previous editions. The information contained in this booklet is based on data provided by various official sources. Details are subject to change. In case of any discrepancy, the regulations of the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, The Ministry of Religious Services, the Ministry of the Interior, the National Insurance Institute, The Ministry of Social Affairs, and other official bodies will prevail.



Birth

Registering at a Hospital

A pregnant woman may choose the hospital in which she prefers to give birth, and the expenses are covered by the National Insurance Institute (see below). However, if you prefer a specific doctor for the delivery, you are usually limited to the hospital where that doctor works, and will be required to pay fees. You should register at the hospital of your choice by the fifth month of pregnancy in order to ensure a place. At that time you should present both your and your husband's *te'udat zehut* (identity card) and health fund membership cards, in addition to a letter of referral from a doctor certifying your due date. Claims for National Insurance benefits can already be prepared at the time of registration (see below).



Participation in Hospital Travel Expenses

The National Insurance Institute may participate in travel expenses if a woman in labor travels to the hospital to give birth, and the distance from the ambulance station is more than 40 kilometers. Consult with the National Insurance Institute for more details. For more information, see the booklets entitled "National Insurance," and "Health Services," available from the Publications Department. See the order form at the back. You can also visit the National Insurance website: www.btl.gov.il.

The Population Administration

Following birth, the hospital issues a birth notice (*hoda'at leida*) and an identity number. Once the child has been named, you must register the infant in the Population Administration (*Minhal Uchlusin*) of the Ministry of the Interior and request an official birth certificate. You must also have the child listed in each parent's identity card (*te'udat zehut*).



Birth Certificates

- Birth certificates are issued by the Ministry of the Interior to persons born in Israel only. If you are an Israeli citizen and give birth to a child outside of Israel, consult with an Israeli embassy or consulate for information.
- In order to request a birth certificate, you must provide the Population Administration with your identity number, the identity number of the child, personal details of the child as listed at the time of birth, and a request form (*tofes bakasha lematan tiud mimirsham ha uchlusin*). You can download the request form from the Ministry of the Interior website. You may submit the documents by fax or mail, or in person at a branch office of the Population Administration.
- You can request a birth certificate written in both Hebrew and English.



Registering a Newborn with the Population Administration

- To register a child born in Israel, you need to provide the Population Administration with a copy of your *te'udat zehut* including the addendum (*sefach*), as well as that of your spouse, and the birth notice issued in the hospital. You can send the documents by fax, registered mail, or deposit them in the "service box" of a Population Administration branch office. On the upper left-hand side you must fill in the first name given to the child. One of the parents must sign this. In addition, you must fill out a request form, which you can download from the Ministry of the Interior website: www.pnim.gov.il. You can also request the form from a clerk at a post office branch, and deposit it in the "service box" (*tevat sherut*) at the post office.
- In order to register a child born overseas, you must appear in person at a Population Administration office, and provide your



te'udat zehut and that of your spouse, and a birth notice issued by an Israeli consulate or embassy overseas. If no such notice was issued, you must present an original, authorized birth certificate, as well as a notarized translation.

- You may submit a request to add the child to the parents' identity cards via the hospital following the birth, or at a post office branch or service box (*tevat sheruf*) of a Population Administration branch office. Include the birth notice provided by the hospital, the name of the child, and the information listed on the parents' identity card addendum (*sefach*). Your updated addendum is sent to you by mail. If you do not receive the updated addendum, call the Population Administration Information Center. see Useful Addresses.
- If the parents are married but have different last names, the Population Administration will assign the child the father's last name. If the parents wish the child to have the mother's last name, or the last names of both parents, the parents must go to a branch office of the Population Administration following the birth. They must bring the birth notice issued in the hospital, a completed request form (*tofes bakasha leshinuin hashlamot vetikunim bepratei mersham ha uchlusin*) which you can download from the Ministry of the Interior website: www.pnim.gov.il, and both parents' identity cards, including the addendum (*sefach*).
- If the parents are not married, the Population Administration will assign the child the mother's last name. If the parents wish the child to have the father's last name, or the last names of both parents, the parents must go to a branch office of the Population Administration following the birth. They must bring the birth notice issued in the hospital, a completed request form (*tofes bakasha leshinuin hashlamot vetikunim bepratei mersham ha uchlusin*) available from the Ministry website, both parents' identity cards, including the addendum (*sefach*) and a 'recognition of paternity' form (*tofes hakara beavhut*), available from the Ministry of the Interior website.
- The father of a child born to a single woman (defined by the



Ministry of the Interior as unmarried, or divorced or widowed following 300 days from the end of her marriage) can declare paternity by filling out a “recognition of paternity” form (*tofes hakara beavhut*, available from the Ministry website). The mother must authorize the declaration on the back of the form. Parents may fill out the form at the hospital following the birth, or at a Population Administration office within three days of the birth. Both parents must be present, and provide the birth notice and their identity cards.

Passports

- If you wish for a baby to have a passport, you must request one to be issued. The law does not permit a baby to be listed in a parent’s passport. In order to request a passport, bring the child to a Population Administration office, along with your *te’udat zehut*, two passport photos of the child, and a request form (available for download from the Ministry website). There is a fee. If the parents are not married to each other, or in the process of divorcing, both parents are required to appear at the Population Administration, and state their agreement to the issuance of the passport in the presence of the Population Administration clerk. You can fill out the form and pay the fee on-line on the Ministry of the Interior website.

National Insurance Institute Aid to New Mothers

The National Insurance Institute provides various forms of assistance to new mothers.

Hospitalization Grant

The hospitalization grant (*ma’anak ishpuz*) is paid directly to the hospital where the birth took place. It covers the costs of the delivery and hospital stay. The grant also covers the costs of hospitalizing the baby, if necessary.



Birth Grant

The National Insurance Institute pays a birth grant (*ma'anak leida*) to a mother following a birth and according to the number of children born. The grant is paid into the bank account into which the child allowance is paid; for the first birth, the grant is paid into the bank account that is indicated at the hospital.

In the case of a multiple birth, the grant is increased in accordance with the number of babies.

Eligibility

A mother who gave birth in a hospital, or was hospitalized immediately following the birth, and meets the following criteria can receive a grant according to the following guidelines:

- She is a resident of Israel or the wife of a resident of Israel (even if the birth took place outside of Israel).
- She is employed or self-employed in Israel (even if she is not a resident of Israel, provided that the birth took place in Israel) or she is the wife of an individual that is employed or self-employed in Israel for at least 6 consecutive months immediately preceding the birth (even if the mother and her spouse are not residents of Israel, provided that the birth took place in Israel).

A claim for the grant is submitted to the National Insurance Institute via the hospital in which the birth took place. For this purpose, you must bring your and your spouse's *te'udat zehut*, or other identification to the hospital, and provide the hospital with your bank account details.

Maternity Allowance

The National Insurance Institute pays a maternity allowance (*dmei leida*) to an employed woman during maternity leave or following the adoption of a child up to the age of 10. The allowance is compensation for resultant loss of income during the period in



which you do not work due to pregnancy and giving birth, or are caring for an adopted child.

- You can be eligible for 14 weeks of the maternity allowance provided that you have worked for 10 out of the 14 months, or for 15 out of the 22 months, prior to the day that you stopped work due to a pregnancy that resulted in childbirth.
- You can be eligible for 7 weeks of maternity allowance provided that you have worked for 6 months out of the 14 months preceding the day you stopped work as above.

Compensation is subject to income tax as well as National Insurance and Health Insurance premium payments

An allowance is also paid to an employed person who adopts a child under the age of 10, and takes leave from work in order to care for the child, on condition that you have accumulated an insurance period as outlined below.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for a maternity allowance, it is necessary to meet the following criteria:

- You must be employed or self-employed in Israel.
- A woman aged 18 or over in vocational training may be eligible under certain conditions.
- Women employed outside of Israel may be eligible under certain conditions.

Further, in order to be eligible for a maternity allowance, you must have paid National Insurance Institute premiums for 10 out of the previous 14 months, or for 15 out of the previous 22 months, prior to stopping work. If you make payments for 6 out of the previous 14 months before stopping work, you can be eligible for an allowance for a period of 6 weeks.

You can fill out and submit a claim form for an allowance either



in person at the nearest National Insurance Institute branch office, or by mail. You can receive a form from a NII branch office, or download forms from their website: www.btl.gov.il. You may submit the form upon discontinuation of work, but no earlier than 9 weeks before the estimated date of birth. If you submit the form prior to the birth you must have medical confirmation of your estimated due date. You may submit forms up to 12 months from the day that you become eligible for an allowance.

A woman that works during the period in which she receives a maternity allowance is liable to forfeit eligibility for the allowance.

Under certain conditions, a father can take leave in place of the mother.

Surrogacy

A surrogate mother and the designated mother may be entitled to a birth grant and a maternity allowance according to National Insurance Institute guidelines. For details, contact the Maternity Department at your nearest NII branch office.

Child Allowances

The National Insurance Institute pays child allowances (*kitzvat yeladim*) to residents of Israel for their children in accordance with the number of children and their ages. The allowance is a universal one, and has no connection with the level or sources of the family income.

The claim for a child allowance is filed through the hospital in which the baby is born. You must provide the hospital with your bank account and ID numbers.

Similarly, the allowance is paid to new immigrants with children from their first day in the country, as well as to nonresidents who work in Israel. The allowance is paid directly into your bank account in the same manner as Absorption Basket payments. It is not necessary



to file a claim. See the “Guide for the New Immigrant” and “The Absorption Basket” for more details.

Since the child allowance is conditional upon the child's being in Israel, a family planning an extended trip abroad must inform the National Insurance Institute.

For any child spending more than 6 months abroad, an allowance will be paid only in specific instances.



Note: for more information on payments and benefits, contact the National Insurance Institute branch office nearest you, or visit their website: www.btl.gov.il You can also consult the booklet entitled “National Insurance,” available from the Publications Department. See the order form at the back of this booklet.

Adoption

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services

All adoptions in Israel are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services Department of Child Services (*HaSherut LeMa'an Hayered*).

International adoptions are legal in Israel, and a number of organizations assist those who wish to adopt children from overseas. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services must certify any such organization. For information, contact the Ministry.

For more information, contact a district office of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services (see Useful Addresses). Information is also available on the Ministry's website, www.molsa.gov.il.

Adoptive parents are entitled to maternity allowances and child allowances from the National Insurance Institute as outlined above.



Marriage

Registering for Marriage

Official marriage and divorce procedures for the Jewish community in Israel are handled by the local religious councils, which are supervised by the Ministry of Religious Services.

The first step for a couple wishing to marry is to appear together at the Marriage Registry office (*machleket nisu'in*) of the Religious Council in the place of residence of one of the partners. Residence is defined as your fixed abode as proved by the address listed in your identity card and in which you have resided for over six months. You can locate your nearest Religious Council by visiting the website of the Ministry of Religious Services, www.dat.gov.il.

You must register between 45 days-3 months days prior to the planned wedding date, and no more than three months prior to the date. Registration of a couple that does not marry within three months is canceled. If one member of the couple has already opened a marriage file with another person, they must cancel the file before opening a new one.

New immigrants must provide proof of Jewish status upon registering. The procedure will often be carried out in a local rabbinical court. Some of the documents that you may have to produce include your mother's birth certificate, parents' and grandparents' marriage certificate and ketuba, and other records that attest to Jewish status. The length of this process can vary.

At the time of registration, each member of the couple must present the following:

- Valid *te'udat zehut* (identity card).
- Three passport photos.
- Tourists must present a valid and up-to-date passport, authorization of single status, and proof of Jewish status from a recognized Jewish authority overseas or rabbinical court in Israel.



- New immigrants should consult with a rabbinical court in order to verify their Jewish status, and provide documentation from the court.
- Couples registering to marry in a location other than the location in which their parents registered to marry must supply their parents' marriage certificate or *ketuba*.
- A divorced individual must produce a *get* (writ of divorce) issued by an official rabbinical court. They should also have copies of court rulings and decisions. See the section on divorced individuals below.
- A widow/er must provide a copy of the late spouse's death certificate. See the section on widows/widowers below.
- Persons that were adopted will be referred to a Rabbinical Court to verify their status.
- Registration fee.

It is recommended to consult with the Marriage Registry as soon as possible if you require special clarification of your status, even before opening a file, in order to avoid delays.

The couple must testify in writing to their personal and family status. In some cases, they will be required to obtain their parents' signatures on the written declaration.

Each member of the couple must bring two male witnesses over the age of 18 to attest to their identity and status, and to their written statements. The witnesses must not be related to the bride or groom or to each other. The bride and groom may use the same witnesses. The witnesses must bring their *te'udat zehut*.

The couple should inform the *machleket nisu'in* of the intended location of the marriage ceremony when registering.

In order to choose the most appropriate date for the wedding, the bride consults with a Family Purity Counselor (*madricha letaharat hamishpacha*). A few days prior to the wedding, the bride visits a *mikva* (ritual bath,) free of charge. The counselor will provide authorization for the free visit. The *mikva* attendant will then give



the bride a certificate that she presents to the officiating rabbi at the time of the wedding.

Note that there are certain calendar dates when marriages customarily do not take place in Israel, including the period of the Three Weeks preceding the Tisha B'Av fast, as well as during the period of the "Counting of the Omer" between Pessach and Lag B'Omer. Consult with the registrar of marriages for guidelines.

The legal minimum age for a bride and groom is 17. A bride or groom under the age of 17 requires permission from a district court (*beit mishpat machozi*) in order to marry.

An already-married couple, who did not marry according to Jewish law (*halacha*) and who wish to do so, may apply to the *machleket nisu'in* of their local rabbinical council, which will then refer them to a rabbinical court.

Before granting you your marriage license, the *machleket nisu'in* will advertise your intent to marry in one of the national or weekly newspapers.

Divorced Individuals

A divorced individual must produce a *get* (writ of divorce) issued by an official rabbinical court. You may also be asked to submit copies of court rulings and decisions. If the *get* was issued overseas, you must receive authorization at an official Israeli rabbinical court. The court will check that the divorce took place according to halachic (Jewish legal) procedures, and that a valid *get* was issued. Generally speaking, if one was married in a civil ceremony **only**, and can prove this, a civil bill of divorce will usually suffice.

Converts

One who is a convert to Judaism must present the local rabbinical court with documentation of the conversion from an official



rabbinical court recognized by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.

Widows and Widowers

A widow or widower must present the official death certificate of their late spouse. Note that the death certificate issued by the burial society is not accepted for this purpose. A widow must also present either the identity card of one of her children, or a “*te’udat halitza*.” *Halitza* is a ceremony that takes place in cases where the husband has died without children. The late husband's brother is halachically obligated to either marry the widow (known as *yibum*), or release her to marry someone else (*halitza*). **Only** *halitza* is practiced in Israel; the law of *yibum* is **not** applied. The widow and her brother-in-law go through a short ceremony at the rabbinical court, which then issues a *te’udat halitza*. This document must be presented when registering to marry. This procedure is not necessary in cases where the deceased has no living brothers.

Couples Wishing to Marry Outside of Their Place of Residence

In order to marry outside of the area in which you reside, you must obtain a *te’udat revakut* (authorization of unmarried status) from the *machleket nisu’in* in the locality in which you do reside. In order to apply for a *te’udat revakut*, you must present an up-to-date *te’udat zehut*, make a written declaration of your personal status, provide two (male) witnesses to verify your identity and to attest to your written statements. You must also provide two passport pictures.

Fees

There is a registration fee when registering with the *machleket nisu’in*. In many cases, the following categories may be eligible for a discount or waiver of fees:

- New immigrants within the first two years following aliyah.
- Soldiers in obligatory I.D.F service



- University and *yeshiva* students.
- Persons receiving assistance from municipal social services departments, upon presentation of a letter of referral from the relevant department.

For more information on registration or fees, contact a Religious Council. See Useful Addresses.

Note: for more information on registration or fees, contact your local religious council. See Useful Addresses.

The Ceremony

The Chief Rabbinate must authorize the rabbi that you select to preform your ceremony. You will have to notify the marriage bureau of your choice, and the rabbi should provide a letter stating that he agrees to perform the marriage. In some cases the rabbi may also have to supply certification of his eligibility to perform weddings. If you have no preference, the *machleket nisu'in* can provide you with a rabbi. You may be responsible for providing transport if the location is far from the rabbi's place of residence.

The location of the wedding must be approved by the rabbi, and must be under suitable kashrut supervision. The rabbi will also assist you in determining the exact time for the wedding.

The *machleket nisu'in* may schedule an appointment with the groom in order to help determine the details of the *ketubah* (marriage contract). The groom can then pick up the *ketubah* prior to the wedding. It is also permissible to supply your own *ketubah*, but the *machleket nisu'in* should check it to make sure that the text is valid. The officiating rabbi will ensure that either he or the couple transfers a copy of the *ketubah* to the *machleket nisu'in* in which the marriage is registered.

In order to receive an official marriage certificate, the couple must appear in person at the *machleket nisu'in* approximately two weeks



following the ceremony, and the *machleket nisu'in* will then issue the certificate.

For more information, contact your local religious council.

Procedures at The Population Administration

If you wish to have your new spouse's last name listed on your *te'udat zehut* you must fill out a request form (available for download from www.pnim.gov.il) and appear in person at an office of the Population Administration with the following documents:

- *te'udat zehut*
- original marriage certificate
- the addendum (*sefach*) from your spouse's *te'udat zehut*
- both spouses' Israeli passports
- new, up-to-date photo (of correct size for the *te'udat zehut*)
- request form (*tofes hoda'a bedavar bechirat shem mishpacha*)

To update your *te'udat zehut* following marriage to reflect your change in family status, you must provide the Population Registry with your current *te'udat zehut*, your Israeli passport, and your marriage certificate, along with a new photograph of the appropriate size, along with a request form for a new *te'udat zehut*. You can download the form from the Ministry of the Interior website, www.pnim.gov.il.

Divorce

Divorce procedures for the Jewish community in Israel are processed through one of the 12 rabbinical courts located throughout the country. Issues such as such as child support may be brought before a civil family court. For more information, see the Rabbinical Court System website; www.rbc.gov.il, and the civil court website, www.court.gov.il.



Following divorce, you may bring your divorce certificate and court rulings, as well as your *te'udat zehut*, Israeli passport, and a request form and new photograph to the Population Registry in order to update your *te'udat zehut*. You can download request forms from the Ministry of the Interior website, www.pnim.gov.il.



Burial

Burial Societies

There are some 600 burial societies (*chevrot kedishot*) in Israel, among which some 50 are independent, approximately 70 are connected to local religious councils, and the remainder to the kibbutzim and moshavim and local authorities. The burial societies arrange burials, and offer advice and counseling to the families. Burial societies are established only with the approval of the National Authority for Religious Services, a division of the Prime Minister's Bureau, and are subject to the ongoing supervision of the Ministry of Religious Services Department of Burial Services.



Official Procedures

Initial Steps

When a death occurs, there are a number of steps that you must take.

If a death takes place at home, it is necessary for a physician to come to the house and confirm the death. The physician must also issue a death certificate (*te'udat petira*).

When a death occurs in a hospital, you must supply the hospital with the deceased's *te'udat zehut* so that the hospital can issue the death certificate.

If the death was the result of an accident, or took place outside of the home or a hospital, and was pronounced by Magen David Adom, you will need to obtain three copies of the death report issued by an MDA doctor, as well as a medical report from MDA. If the death was caused by an accident, or the cause of death was unclear, you must obtain an authorization from the police.

You must then submit the relevant documents to the nearest district health office (*lishkat habriut*) together with the deceased's *te'udat zehut*, in order to receive a burial license (*rishayon kevura*). If the



health office is closed, consult with the duty physician according to the list that the health office posts. When a death occurs in a hospital, the hospital can often arrange for the license on your behalf. Note that in many cases, the *chevra kadisha* (burial society) will take care of the arrangements for the death certificate, and that this is the recommended course of action.

In a case of suspicious death, the Ministry of Health may wish to conduct an autopsy. In such a instance, the burial society can offer guidance.

Registering the Death

The death must be registered with the Population Administration (*Minhal Uchlusin*) of Ministry of the Interior, which will issue an official copy of the death certificate (*te'udat petira*). Note that you may request the official death certificate at the same time as registering the death.

In order to register the death of a person that has passed away in Israel, it is necessary to appear in person at a Population Administration office, and to provide the following:

- *Te'udat zehut* of the person making the request.
- *Te'udat zehut* of the deceased.
- Addendum (*sefach*) of the *te'udat zehut* of the deceased's spouse.
- Original death certificate provided by the hospital or district office of the Ministry of Health (see above).

In order to register the death of a person that has passed away overseas, it is necessary to appear in person at a Population Administration office and to provide the following:

- *Te'udat zehut* of the person making the request.
- *Te'udat zehut* of the deceased.
- Israeli passport belonging to the deceased.
- Authorization of the death provided by an Israeli embassy or consulate overseas.



- If an Israeli embassy or consulate overseas did not issue an authorization of the death, it is necessary to present the original, official death certificate from overseas. The certificate must be translated and notarized.

Death Certificates

The Ministry of the Interior issues official death certificates for persons that passed away in Israel only. Requests must be made in person at a Population Administration office. In order to receive a certificate, you must supply the following:

- Identity number of the person making the request.
- Personal details of the person that has passed away, as listed at the time of passing, e.g., identity number, etc.
- Application form. You can download the form from the Ministry of the Interior website, www.pnim.gov.il

In most cases, there are no fees for issuing a death certificate or for registering the death.

Note: If the request is made on behalf of a person who passed away before the year 1955, it is important to indicate their place of residence at the time of their death in addition to their place of decease.

Arrangements

Even before the burial license is issued, the family may already begin consultations with a burial society in order to make arrangements for the funeral. The burial society will assist in determining the time of the funeral, and the location from which it will set out. Be sure to provide the burial society with all relevant documents.

A list of *chevrot kadishot* is available on the Ministry of Religious Services website (in Hebrew): www.dat.gov.il.

The services of the *chevra kadisha* are not free of charge; however, the National Insurance Institute covers the fees. The *chevra kadisha*



takes care of the request for payment. It is not necessary for the family to deal with the National Insurance Institute. One of the main costs covered is that of a burial plot, which will be arranged for by the *chevra kadisha*. However, if the family wishes for burial in a section of the cemetery classified as "special" (usually close to the cemetery entrance) or burial in cemeteries classified as "closed," it will be necessary to pay an officially determined fee.

Other services covered by the National Insurance Institute include transportation of the body to the cemetery, purification of the body, conduction of the funeral, and burial. Should the family wish other additional services not covered by the National Insurance Institute, these too may be requested, for a fee. You can receive a list of the officially set fees from the burial society. Be sure to obtain a receipt for any payments. Additional services include transportation of a body from one city to another, and special processional routes. The *chevra kadisha* can also supply a cantor to conduct memorial services following the seven days of mourning (*shiva*), on the thirtieth day (*shloshim*), or any anniversary of the death (*yortzheit/azkara*). There is a fee for cantorial services.

Note: government regulations prohibit burial society employees from receiving payments or gratuities for services rendered.

You can request a specific burial plot while still alive through a *chevra kadisha*. The spouse of a deceased person may request burial in an adjoining plot. Submit a request for the adjoining plot to the *chevra kadisha* within 30 days of the burial.

Families who wish to erect a monument (*matzeva*) on a grave should consult with the *chevra kadisha*. They should do so during the period between concluding the seven days of mourning (*shiva*) and the thirtieth day following the death (*shloshim*). It is recommended to take care of arrangements for the monument as soon as possible following the *shiva*, in order to insure sufficient time to prepare the monument.



Employment regulations, particularly those that govern the public sector, allow for paid leave for immediate relatives of a deceased person during the 7-day period of mourning.

Burial of Non-Jews

There are a number of *chevrot kedishot* around the country that can advise families and handle the burial of those who are not considered Jews according to *Halacha*. The local religious council can direct families to these *chevrot kedishot*.

Funeral Customs

It should be noted by those unfamiliar with funeral practices in Israel that the deceased are not usually buried in caskets. Bodies are cleaned and purified by the *chevra kadisha*, then wrapped in special shrouds (*tachrichim*) and transported on a covered stretcher. It is customary to hold the funeral within as short a time period as possible, often on the same day or the day following the death.

Prior to the funeral, the officiating rabbi conducts a short ceremony known as "*kriya*," (literally 'tearing') in which the immediate family of the deceased will have a small part of their clothing cut as a sign of mourning.

Families are entitled to choose a rabbi other than the one provided by the *chevra kadisha*, or any other person, to deliver a eulogy during the funeral.

Assistance From the National Insurance Institute

Following the death of one insured by the National Insurance Institute, surviving family members may be entitled to various forms of benefits.

Survivor's Pension

The National Insurance Institute pays a survivor's pension to eligible family members of the insured person, provided that the



death did not occur during a war or an enemy action. Families of victims of enemy actions should consult with the National Insurance Institute in order to check their eligibility for benefits according to The Compensation Act for Victims of Hostile Actions. The Ministry of Defense handles all matters pertaining to fallen soldiers and their families.

In addition to the survivor's pension, the National Insurance Institute provides vocational training for widow/ers who meet conditions of eligibility.

- If a widow remarries, her entitlement to the pension is reevaluated.
- A widow or widower who remarries, and whose rights to the pension have ceased, may be entitled to a marriage grant.
- A recipient of the pension who has no other source of income may be eligible to receive an income supplement.

Special Childbirth Payments

If a woman passes away during childbirth or within one year of giving birth, the National Insurance Institute may make a special payment for the newborn, on condition that the mother was entitled to a maternity grant and/ or birth allowance and/or maternity allowance.

A widower may also be eligible for a special allowance for each newborn that was born during a single birth. Consult with the National Insurance Institute for more details.

A deceased mother's spouse can be eligible for a special benefit if, due to her death, her husband must discontinue work in order to care for the child.

Submit claims for special allowances and benefits to the local branch of the National Insurance Institute. Consult the National Insurance Institute for more details. You can also visit their website: www.btl.gov.il



Glossary

Places

District Health Office	<i>Lishkat HaBriut</i>	לשכת הבריאות
Marriage Department	<i>Machleket Nisu'in</i>	מחלקת נישואין
Population Registry	<i>Minhal HaUchlusin</i>	מינהל האוכלוסין
Religious Council	<i>Moatza Datit</i>	מועצה דתית
The Ministry of Health	<i>Misrad HaBriut</i>	משרד הבריאות
The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption	<i>HaMisrad LeKlitat HaAliyah</i>	המשרד לקליטת העלייה
The Ministry of the Interior	<i>Misrad HaPnim</i>	משרד הפנים
The Ministry of Religious Services	<i>HaMisrad LeSherutei Dat</i>	המשרד לשירותי דת
The Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services	<i>Misrad HaRevacha VeHaSherutim HaChevrati'im</i>	משרד הרווחה והשירותים החברתיים
The National Insurance Institute	<i>HaMossad LeBituach Leumi</i>	המוסד לביטוח לאומי

People

Baby	<i>tinok/tinoket</i>	תינוק/תינוקת
Bride	<i>kalla</i>	כלה
Child	<i>yeled/yalda</i>	ילד/ילדה
Groom	<i>chatan</i>	חתן
New immigrant	<i>oleh hadash</i> <i>olah hadasha</i>	עולה חדש עולה חדשה
Spouse	<i>ben/bat zoog</i>	בן/בת זוג



Personal absorption counselor	<i>yoetz klita ishi</i> <i>yoetzet klita ishit</i>	יועץ קליטה אישי יועצת קליטה אישית
Rabbi	<i>rav</i>	רב

Documents

Authorization	<i>ishur</i>	אישור
Birth certificate	<i>te'udat leida</i>	תעודת לידה
Burial license	<i>rishayon kevura</i>	רשיון קבורה
Certification of unmarried status	<i>te'udat ravakut</i>	תעודת רווקות
Death certificate	<i>te'udat ptira</i>	תעודת פטירה
Identity card	<i>te'udat zehut</i>	תעודת זהות
Identity number	<i>mispar zehut</i>	מספר זהות
Marriage certificate	<i>te'udat nisu'in</i>	תעודת נישואין
New immigrants certificate	<i>te'udat oleh</i>	תעודת עולה
Writ of divorce	<i>te'udat gerushin (get)</i>	תעודת גירושין (גט)

Things

Adoption	<i>imutz</i>	אימוץ
Alimony	<i>dmei mezonot</i>	דמי מזונות
Birth grant	<i>ma'anak leida</i>	מענק לידה
Child allowance	<i>kitzvat yeladim</i>	קצבת ילדים
Claim	<i>tviaa</i>	תביעה
Divorce	<i>gerushin</i>	גירושין
File	<i>tik</i>	תיק



Form	<i>tofes</i>	טופס
Grant	<i>ma'anak</i>	מענק
Hospitalization Grant	<i>ma'anak ishpuz</i>	מענק אישפוז
Marriage	<i>nisu'in</i>	נישואין
Maternity allowance	<i>dmei leida</i>	דמי לידה
Monument	<i>matzeva</i>	מצבה
Survivor's pension	<i>kitzbat she'irim</i>	קצבת שאירים
Wedding	<i>chatuna</i>	חתונה



Useful Addresses and Telephone Numbers



Telephone numbers and some addresses change frequently in Israel. Consult the latest telephone directory or the information operator if you do not reach the number listed here. When a number has changed there may not be a recorded message noting the change. Thus, if the number continues to be unanswered, check whether it is still in use.

Address

Telephone/Fax

Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

www.moia.gov.il

info@moia.gov.il

Main Office

2 Rehov Kaplan
Kiryat Ben Gurion
POB 13061
Jerusalem 91130

National Telephone Information Center

(03) 9733333

Public Inquiries

(02) 6752765

Southern and Jerusalem District Headquarters

31 Rehov Zalman Shazar

(08) 6261216

Beer Sheva

Fax: (08) 6230811

Haifa and Northern District Headquarters

15 Rehov HaPalyam

(04) 8631114

Fax: (04) 8631110



Tel Aviv and Central District Headquarters

1-599-500-901

6 Rehov Esther HaMalka

Fax: (03) 5209173

Jerusalem District Office

15 Rehov Hillel

1-599-500-923

Publications Department

Fax: (02) 6241585

Emergency Telephone Numbers**Police**

100

www.police.gov.il**Magen David Adom**

101

www.mdais.org**Fire Department**

102

Emergency Center for the Deaf*(Moked Herum)*

The Emergency Center makes it possible to send calls to Magen David Adom, the Police, and the Fire Department, by fax.

Tel Aviv

(03) 5216445

North

(04) 8511954, (04) 8530161

Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israelwww.1202.org.il

National Hotline

1202

Hotline for Religious Women

(02) 6730002

Hotline for Men and Boys

1203

Religious Men's Hotline

(02) 5328000



Address	Telephone/Fax
Eran Mental Health Hotline	1201
www.eran.org.il	
info@eran.org.il	
Senior Citizens	*3201
Internet chat- ICQ Number	12101
Soldiers	*2201
Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-220000
Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services Hotline	118
Emergency Fax	(08) 6652698
Hotline offering guidance and referrals to aid and assistance in crisis situations.	

Ministry of Religious Services

www.dat.gov.il

7 Rehov Kanfei Nesharim	(02) 5311101
95464	Fax: (02) 6535469
Burial Societies Division	(02) 5311174
	Fax: (02) 6535825
Kashrut Division	(02) 5313114
Office of the Chief Rabbi- Ashkenazi	(02) 5313191
	Fax: (02) 5377872
Office of the Chief Rabbi - Sephardi	(02) 5313190
	Fax: (02) 5313178
Public Inquiries	(02) 5313114/6
or via www.dat.gov.il	Fax: (02) 5377874



The Ministry of the Interior/Population Administration

www.pnim.gov.il

pniot@moin.gov.il

Telephone Information Center

*3450

Public Inquiries

(02) 6294701

6 Rehov Misilat Yescharim

Fax: (02) 6294750

Jerusalem

Branch Offices (Contact the Information Center for information on public reception hours and details on required documents, fees, etc.)

Mercaz Tzimer

Ashdod

4 Sd. Hatikva

Beer Sheva

Commercial Center

Beit Katzir

Beit Shemesh

89 Rehov Hazon Ish

Bnai Brak

140 Rehov Weizmann

Cfar Sava

HaKenyon HaAdom

Eilat



15 Rehov HaPalyam

Haifa

2 Rehov Hadar

Hertzlia

1 Rehov Shlomzion HaMalka

Jerusalem

1 Rehov Talton

Modi'in

13 Rehov Remez

Netanya

6 Rehov Mohliver

Petach Tikva

2 Rehov Bialik

Ramat Gan

4 Rehov Binyamin

Rehovot

5 Yisrael Galilee

Rishon LeTzion

125 Derech Begin

Tel Aviv

4 Rehov Weizmann

Tzfat



The National Insurance Institute

www.btl.gov.il

National Call Center

*6050 / (04) 8812345

Payment Line

(08) 6509911

Pregnancy Risk Line

(08) 6509934

Counseling Service for Senior Citizens

(02) 6463404

English Line

Computerized Appointment Center

*9050 or 1-222-9050

24 hours a day

Main Office

(02) 6709211

13 Sderot Weizmann

Jerusalem 95437

District Offices

(call the National Call Center for information on public reception hours and for more information on offices in your area.)

101 Rehov HaNasi

Ashkelon 78328

6 Rehov Wolfson

Beer Sheva 84896

3 Rehov Nasi Yisrael

Carmiel 21921

12 Derech HaSharon

Cfar Saba 44351



7 Rehov Hillel Yaffe

Hadera 38203

8 Sd. HaPalyam

Haifa 33265

4 Rehov Shimon Ben Shetach

Jerusalem 94147

6 Sderot Weizmann

Naharia 22380

68 Rehov Hertzl

Netanya 42251

72 Rehov Rothschild

Petach Tikva 49360

15 Rehov HaHashmonaim

Ramat Gan 52482

64 Rehov Remez

Rehovot 76449

7 Rehov Yisrael Galili

Rishon LeTzion 75229

17 Rehov Yitzhak Sadeh

Tel Aviv 67775



Branch Offices

14 Rehov Habanim

Ashdod 77342

2 Rehov Jabotinsky

Bat Yam 59446

8 Rehov HaNasi

Beit Shemesh 99037

1 Rehov Ahronovitch

Bnai Brak 51450

12 Rehov Midian

Eilat 88000

22 Rehov Ben Gurion

Hertzlia 56785

Sd. Tel Hai, Commercial Center

Kiryat Shmona

100 Rehov HaPalmach

Tzfat 13224



Local Religious Councils

(Selected list only. See www.dat.gov.il for more information or contact your municipal information line 105/6/7 for information on the religious council in your area)

34 Rehov Yehuda (08) 9959419
P.O.B. 169
Arad 80700

1 Rehov Szold (08) 8630630
Ashdod

1 Rehov Eshtaol (08) 6714401
Migdal Amirim
Ashkelon

8 Rehov HaTalmud (08) 6204000
Schuna Daled
Beer Sheva

4 Rehov Ba'al HaTanya (02) 5808889
Beitar Illit

15 Rehov Remez (04) 6586249
P.O.B. 5
Beit She'ean

615 Rehov Herzl (02) 9911361
Beit Shemesh



Address	Telephone/Fax
12 Rehov Rabbi Akiva Bnai Brak	(03) 5781133
100 Rehov Nasi'ei Yisrael Carmiel	(04) 9985630
125 Rehov Weizmann Cfar Sava	(09) 7905600
Ta'ana Commercial Center Efrat	(02) 9931772
Rehov Eilat 409/4 P.O.B. 15 Eilat	(08) 6376135
Rehov HaTa'ana Givat Ze'ev	(02) 5362755
60 Rehov Herzl Haifa 33087	(04) 8641187
7 Rehov HaRav Goren Hertzlia	(09) 9504851
12 Rehov HaHavatzelet Jerusalem 91000	(02) 6214888
7 Rehov HaYarden Kiryat Shmona 10200	(04) 6940221



Address	Telephone/Fax
39 Derech Midbar Yehuda Ma'aleh Adumim	(02) 5353212
4 Rehov Smilansky Netanya	(09) 8336324
37 Rehov Hovevei Tzion Petach Tikva	(03) 9051500
18 Rehov Clausner Ra'anana	(09) 7431356
47 Rehov Hertzl Ramat Gan 52101	(03) 6700555
2 Rehov Goldberg Rehovot 76283	(08) 9362665
1 Rehov Uri Tel Aviv 64954	(03) 6938900
78 HaPalmach Tzfat 13221	(04) 6971633
32 Rehov HaNadiv Zichron Ya'akov	(04) 6390712



Rabbinical Courts

www.rbc.gov.il

Information Line 1-700-501531

Main Court - Beit Din HaGadol

24 Rehov King George

(02) 6203700

Jerusalem

Central Court for Matters of Jewish Status

22 Rehov Kanfei Nesharim

(02) 6582822

Jerusalem

District Courts

15 Rehov Yehuda

(03) 9061609

Ariel

1 Sderot Begin

(08) 8688600

Ashdod

4 Rehov Katznelson

(08) 6790660

Ashkelon

4 Rehov HaTikva

(08) 6263900

Beer Sheva

28 Rehov Yalag

(04) 8603111

Haifa

24 Rehov King George

(02) 6203711

Jerusalem



Address	Telephone/Fax
3 Rehov Barket Netanya	(09) 8300800
6 Rehov Spiegel Petach Tikva	(03) 9115222
4 Rehov Binyamin Rehovot	(08) 9371700
33 Sderot David HaMelech Tel Aviv	(03) 6086666
Kikar HaAtzma'ut Binyan Rasco Tiberias	(04) 6727800
6 Rehov Weizmann Tzfat	(04) 6859000

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services

www.molsa.gov.il

Main Office

(02) 6708117

10 Rehov Yad Harutzim
Jerusalem

District Offices - Department of Child Welfare

119 Rehov Yaffo
Haifa

(04) 8142600



Address	Telephone/Fax
24 Rehov Kanfei Nesharim Jerusalem	(02) 6218550/1
22 Sderot Yerushalayim Tel Aviv /Jaffa	(03) 5125530/1
4 Rehov HaTikva Beer Sheva	(08) 6264930

The Ministry of Health

www.health.gov.il

2 Rehov Ben Tabai Jerusalem 91010	(02) 6705705
--------------------------------------	--------------

District Health Offices

17 Rehov David Noy Acco	(04) 9955111
4 Rehov Yerushalayim Afula	(04) 6592016
Barzilai Medical Center Ashkelon	(08) 6745555
4 Rehov HaTikva Beer Sheva	(08) 6265311



Address	Telephone/Fax
13 Rehov Hillel Yaffe Hadera	(04) 6240801
15 Rehov HaParsim Haifa 35055	(04) 8619777 Fax: (04) 8619809
86 Rehov Yaffo Jerusalem 94341	(02) 5314800/2
1 Rehov HaMalacha Lod	(08) 9255548
23 Sd. Weizmann Netanya	(09) 8300111
31 Rehov Achad HaAm Petach Tikva	(03) 9051818
3 Rehov Dani Mas Ramle	(03) 9181212
8 Rehov Remez Rehovot	(08) 9485858
14 Rehov HaArba'a Tel Aviv 64379	(03) 5634848
Rehov Alchadaf Tiberias	(04) 6710300



Address	Telephone/Fax
52 Rehov HaPalmach Tzfat	(04) 6994222
1 Rehov Uri Tel Aviv 64954	(03) 5634848

Voluntary and Non-Profit Organizations

Note: the following addresses are offered as an information service only. The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption does not recommend or endorse any particular organization. It is up to each reader to investigate and determine the organizations appropriate to their needs. See also the booklet entitled "Where to Turn," available from the Publications Department

Bayit LeKol Yeled

www.yeled.org.il

deganit@biku.co.il

Counseling, therapy, information, and social events for adoptive families, and for adults who were adopted as children

4 Rehov Yad Harutzim, Jerusalem
 (02) 6720650
 Fax: (02) 6719650

Israel Religious Action Center

www.irac.org.il

The Israeli branch of the Movement for Progressive Judaism. IRAC uses litigation, legislation, public policy and advocacy to advance civic equality. Among their services is a free legal aid and counseling center for new immigrants that need assistance in issues of personal status.

13 Rehov King David, Jerusalem
 (02) 6203323



Itim - Jewish Life Information Center

www.itim.org.il

info@itim.org.il

Information and counseling on Jewish life-cycle events, including marriage, divorce, conversion, and burial. Services are available in Hebrew, English and Russian.

Infoline

1-700-500-507

P.O.B 4724

Jerusalem

Menucha Nechona

www.menucha-nechona.co.il

Menucha Nechona offers alternative burial, through an agreement with the Ministry of Religious Services.

Beer Sheva and surrounding area

(08) 6233239

Tel Aviv

(03) 5440833

New Family

www.newfamily.org.il

newfamily@newfamily.org.il

New Family works on behalf of families that are not officially recognized.

34 Rehov Nachmani

(03) 5660504

Tel Aviv



Council of Young Israel Rabbis

www.youngisraelrabbis.org.il

office@youngisraelrabbis.org.il

The Council of Young Israel Rabbis offers counseling and information on issues of personal status, including marriage, divorce, and conversion.

58 Rehov King George

(02) 6254983

Jerusalem

Edeia

www.edeia.co.il

ededeia@012.net.il

Organization for the protection of men's rights in divorce.

National Information Line 1-800-270280

31 Rehov Hayetsira

(03) 6132225

Ramat Gan

Center for Women's Justice

www.cwj.org.il

cwj@cwj.org.il

The Center offers legal aid to agunot, women denied a religious divorce, and women experiencing difficulties with litigation in the religious courts.

48 Rehov Emek Rephaim, Jerusalem

(02) 5664390

Equal Parenting Association

www.horut-shava.org.il

Assistance to families in arranging equal access and responsibilities towards the children following a divorce.

P.O.B. 5533

(077) 4140440

Ramat Gan



Family Mediation Service

www.merkaz-gishur.org.il

Marriage counseling and divorce mediation, support groups for children during and following divorce, and social and emotional support to adults going through divorce.

Tel Aviv University

(073) 2100296

Ramat Gan

G.R.N.I.T. - Organization for Assistance to Women during Divorce

www.granitwomen.org

tikvar@zahav.net.il

Information and assistance to women in all aspects of divorce both during proceedings and afterwards, including family and social issues, and psychological aspects.

9 Rehov Keren HaYesod

(03) 5329686

Givat

Shmuel

54051

I.C.A.R. - International Organization for Releasing Chained Women

www.icar.org.il

Information, counseling, a telephone hotline, and referrals.

P.O. Box 68131

(02) 6721401

Jerusalem 91031

Lev Le'am-Help for Agunot and Their Children

Lev Le'am offers information, counseling, and social activities for women and their children refused a religious Jewish divorce.

49/2 Rehov Shachal, Jerusalem

(02) 6796435



Mavoi Satum

www.mavoisatum.org

mavoisatum@mavoisatum.org

Information, counseling, financial aid, and legal aid to women refused a religious divorce.

8 Rehov HaTa'assia

(02) 6712282

Jerusalem 91806

Fax: (02) 6711314

Tzohar

www.tzohar.org.il

nachman@Tzhohar.org.il

Tzohar assists with issues of Jewish status, registration for marriage, offers personalized pre-marriage counseling for brides, and conducts marriage ceremonies. Tzohar also hosts events for Jewish holidays, and organizes educational activities.

1 Rehov HaMalacha

(08) 9152270

Industrial Zone, **Lod**

Fax: (08) 9152280



Other Available Publications

The following booklets are available from the Publications Department. To order, simply indicate the booklets you wish to receive and return the order form to the Publications Department, English Section, Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, 15 Rehov Hillel, Jerusalem, 94581. The publications will be mailed to you free of charge.

- Guide for the New immigrant
- The Absorption Basket
- Consumer Focus Magazine
- Employment
- Employment Guidance Centers
- Education
- First Steps
- Guarding Your Health in Israel
- Guide to Higher Education
- Guide to Services for the Disabled
- Guide to Transportation in Israel
- Guide to Ulpan Study
- Health Services in Israel
- Housing
- The Life Cycle in Israel
- Military Service
- National Insurance Institute
- Retirees
- Accountants
- Artists, Writers and Athletes
- Computer and Hi-Tech Professionals
- Engineers and Architects
- Lawyers
- Medical Professionals
- Nurses
- Psychologists
- Scientists and Researchers
- Social Workers
- Teachers
- Where to turn
- Registering for a Health Fund
- Information for Olim Newspaper
- Shiluv Magazine



Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Date _____



