

משרד העלייה והקליטה

Ministry of Aliyah and Integration



The Life Cycle In Israel

מעגל החיים בישראל | אנגלית



The Life Cycle In Israel

אנגלית | מעגל החיים בישראל



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הודפס על ידי המדפיס הממשלתי

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In Israel, three main life-cycle events, birth, marriage, and burial, each involve a number of official procedures regulated by law. This booklet describes 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 seventh 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. It does not convey eligibility for any form of benefit or service. Details are subject to change. In case of any discrepancy, the regulations of the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, The Ministry of Religious Services, the Population and Immigration Authority, the National Insurance Institute, The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services, and other official bodies will prevail.

Registering at a Hospital

A pregnant woman may choose the hospital at which she prefers to give birth, and the expenses are covered by the National Insurance Institute (see below). However, a woman who prefers a specific doctor for the delivery is usually limited to the hospital in which that doctor works, and may be required to pay fees. It is necessary to register at the hospital by the fifth month of pregnancy in order to ensure a place.

During registration, present the following:

- Parents' *te'udat zehut*.
- Bank account number.
- Health fund membership cards.
- A letter of referral from a doctor certifying the due date.

Claims for National Insurance benefits can already be prepared at the time of registration (see below).

Assistance from the National Insurance Institute

Hospitalization Grant

The National Insurance Institute pays a hospitalization grant (*ma'anak ishpuz*) directly to the hospital at which the birth takes place. The grant covers the costs of the delivery and hospital stay. It also covers the costs of hospitalizing the baby for an additional period, if necessary.

Birth Grant

The birth grant (*ma'anak leida*) is to help toward the purchase of essential clothing and other necessities for the newborn.



In the case of a multiple birth, the National Insurance Institute increases the birth grant in accordance with the number of babies.

To qualify for the birth grant and the hospitalization grant, the mother must give birth in a hospital, or be hospitalized immediately following the birth. The National Insurance Institute deposits the grant into the same bank account into which it deposits child allowances. For the first birth, the grant is deposited into the bank account indicated when registering at the hospital.

A woman who gives birth abroad can be entitled to the grant provided that either she or her husband is a resident of Israel.

A resident of Israel (or the wife of a resident) who gives birth abroad should send the claim for a birth grant (and for a maternity allowance according to specific criteria) to the branch of the National Insurance Institute nearest her Israeli place of residence, attaching appropriate certification from the hospital.

Parents who adopt a child or whose child is born to a surrogate mother can also be eligible for the grant; they must submit the claim directly to the National Insurance Institute.

Maternity Allowance

The following categories can be eligible for a maternity allowance (*dmei leida*) as compensation for resultant loss of income during the subsequent period of leave from work:

- A woman who has just given birth.
- A woman who adopts a child under the age of 10.
- An individual who receives a foster child under the age of 10 for a period of at least one-half year may be eligible for an allowance.
- A woman who gives birth to multiple babies, a mother who must be hospitalized after the birth, or a mother of a newborn who must be hospitalized, can be eligible for extended maternity leave and for an increment to her maternity allowance.



Those eligible are female residents of Israel who have stopped working due to pregnancy or childbirth, and who have accumulated an employment period of sufficient duration prior to taking leave. Women in vocational training courses or who have left military service can also be eligible.

Also eligible are female residents of Israel working abroad for Israeli employers, as well as female nonresidents employed in Israel.

Period of Eligibility

- A woman can be eligible for 14 weeks of the maternity allowance provided that she works for 10 out of the 14 months, or for 15 out of the 22 months, prior to the day that she ceases work due to a pregnancy that results in childbirth.
- A woman can be eligible for 7 weeks of maternity allowance provided that she works for 6 months out of the 14 months prior to the day she ceases working as above.
- Compensation is subject to income tax. Recipients must continue to pay National Insurance and Health Insurance premium payments.

Note that the law permits fathers to take leave instead of the mother, under certain conditions.

In order to receive the maternity allowance, complete a maternity-allowance claim form and submit it to the nearest National Insurance Institute branch office, along with certification of the birth from the hospital. Submit the claim by mail, fax, online through the National Insurance Institute website, or place it in a service box at the nearest NII branch office.

At-Risk Pregnancy Benefit

An employed woman who cannot continue to work because of medical risks to herself or her unborn child may be eligible for compensation (*gimlat shmirat herayon*) throughout the time that she is unable to work.



Ambulance Fees

The National Insurance Institute pays the cost of Magen David Adom ambulance transport to a hospital for a woman in labor, provided that she gives birth at that hospital within 3 days of her arrival.

A woman who gives birth at home can be entitled to payment of the cost of a Magen David Adom ambulance transport to a hospital on condition that she travels to the hospital within 24 hours of giving birth, and is hospitalized for at least 12 hours.

The National Insurance Institute pays Magen David Adom directly; the mother is exempt from payment.

The Population Authority

Following birth, the hospital issues a birth notice (*hoda'at leida*) and an identity number. Once the child is named, it is necessary to register the infant at the Population Authority (*Minhal Uchlusin*) and to request an official birth certificate. The child must also be listed in each parent's identity card (*te'udat zehut*).

Birth Certificates

- The Population Authority issues birth certificates to persons born in Israel only. An Israeli citizen who gives birth to a child outside of the country should consult with the local Israeli embassy or consulate for information.
- In order to request a birth certificate, complete a request form (*tofes bakasha lekabalat te'udat leida*) available for download from the Population Authority website, www.piba.gov.il, and provide the Population Authority with the parents' identity numbers, the identity number of the child, and personal details of the child as listed at the time of birth. Applicants may submit documents through the Population Authority website, by fax or mail, deposit them in a "service box" at a Population Authority branch office, or bring them in person.
- It is possible to request a birth certificate in both Hebrew and English.



Registering a Newborn with the Population Authority

- To register a child born in Israel, provide the Population Authority with the newborn's name and identity number, and the birth notice issued in the hospital. It is also necessary to complete a form for registering the child's name (*tofes rishum nolad/noledet*). Documents may be submitted online through the Population Authority website (www.piba.gov.il), in person, sent by fax or registered mail, or deposited in the "service box" of a Population Authority branch office.

Registering a Birth that Takes Place Outside of a Hospital

- Both parents of a baby who is not born in a hospital must appear in person at the Population Authority in order to register the child. The following documents are required:
 - * Medical certificate of the presiding physician who attended the birth or an affidavit from a certified professional midwife.
 - * In the absence of a medical certificate or affidavit from a certified professional midwife the following documents are required:
 - Medical certification of monitoring of the pregnancy provided by a physician qualified to do so, conducted from the 28th week of pregnancy.
 - Medical authorization from a qualified physician who examined the mother within 48 hours of the birth.

Registering the Birth of the Child of a Single Mother

- A single mother, or the mother of a child whose paternity is not recognized, must appear in person at the Population Authority to register the child. The following documents are required:
 - * Newborn's identity number
 - * Birth notice issued by the hospital. If the birth took place outside a hospital it is necessary to provide medical certification from the physician who attended the birth or an affidavit from a certified professional midwife.
 - * In the absence of a medical certificate or affidavit from a certified professional midwife the following documents are required:



- Medical certification of monitoring of the pregnancy provided by a physician qualified to do so, conducted from the 28th week of pregnancy.
- Medical authorization from a qualified physician who examined the newborn's mother within 48 hours of birth.

Registering the Birth of a Child Born Overseas

- In order to register the birth of a child born overseas, the parents must appear in person at a Population Authority office, and provide their *te'udat zehut* and a birth notice issued by an Israeli consulate or embassy overseas. Parents who do not have a notice from a consulate or embassy must present an original, verified birth certificate, as well as a notarized translation. It is also necessary to present the child's or parent's foreign passport in which the child is listed.
- An Israeli citizen who gives birth overseas must supply, in addition to the original birth certificate, verification that she is the child's birth mother, is over the age of 18, and consents to registration of the child. Her declaration of consent can be made at an Israeli embassy overseas or before a Population Authority clerk.
- An Israeli citizen who is the father of a child born overseas must provide the original birth certificate and verification of paternity. In the absence of this evidence, he must present a certified court ruling determining paternity, and evidence that the mother is the biological mother.

Following completion of all procedures, the Population Authority sends the parents updated addenda for their *te'udat zehut*.

Passports

Regulations do not permit a parent to list a baby on their Israeli passport; in order to travel a baby must have their own individual passport. To apply for a passport, a parent must bring the child to a Population Authority office, along with the parent's *te'udat zehut*, two passport photos of the child, and a completed request form (available for download from the Population Authority



website). There is a fee. Parents who are not married to each other, or who are in the process of divorcing, must both appear at the Population Authority and declare their consent to the issuance of the passport in the presence of the Population Authority clerk.

The Ministry of Aliyah and Integration

Many types of Ministry of Aliyah and Integration assistance to new immigrants depend on family size; therefore, new-immigrant families within their period of eligibility for assistance, who have a new child, should inform the Ministry as soon as possible. For more information, consult a personal absorption counselor at a Ministry branch or district office. Details are also available from "The Guide for the New Immigrant," available from the Publications Department. See the order form at the back of the booklet.

The National Insurance Institute-Child Allowance

The National Insurance Institute pays a child allowance (*kitzbat yeladim*) to all residents of Israel for their children up to age 18.

New immigrants can receive the allowance from their first day in the country. They receive the allowance directly into their bank account in the same manner as Absorption Basket payments. Non-residents who work in Israel may also be eligible to receive the allowance under certain conditions.

The size of the allowance is determined by the number of children in the family, their birth dates, and whether the family is entitled to other specific benefits from the National Insurance Institute.

Payment of the allowance is conditional upon the child being in Israel. A family planning an extended trip abroad should inform the National Insurance Institute in advance. The National Insurance Institute pays the allowance only in specific instances for any child spending more than 3 months abroad.

Note that the National Insurance Institute may deduct outstanding sums from the child allowance of families whose payments of



National Insurance premiums are in arrears.

A divorced parent with custody of the children receives the allowance.

The National Insurance Institute will in many cases pay the allowance to the legal guardian of a child in their custody, or to an individual who is legally appointed as the recipient of the allowance, and who supports the child for at least 12 months.

Note: for more information on payments and benefits, contact the nearest National Insurance Institute branch office, 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.



The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services

All adoptions in Israel are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services Department of Child Services (*HaSherut LeMa'an Hayered*). The Ministry determines eligibility for adoption and matches children with adoptive families according to specific criteria. The Ministry also assists women who wish to place babies for adoption.

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

For more information, contact a district office of the Ministry (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.



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 a Marriage Registry office (*machleket nisu'in*) of one of the Religious Councils located throughout the country. Couples are advised to call the Religious Council in advance in order to find out exactly what they must supply when opening a file, as each Religious Council may vary slightly in their requirements.

For a listing of the addresses of Religious Councils, visit the Ministry of Religious Services website, www.dat.gov.il.

A couple should register no later than 45 days prior to the planned wedding date. If either member of the couple has already opened a marriage file with another person, it is necessary to cancel that file before opening a new one.

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

- Valid *te'udat zehut* (identity card).
- Three passport photos.
- Original marriage certificate of parents who married in Israel (where applicable).
- Tourists must present a valid and up-to-date passport and authorization of single status, and proof of Jewish status from a recognized Jewish authority overseas or Rabbinic Court in Israel.
- New immigrants are given instructions about verifying their Jewish status and necessary documentation.

- A divorced individual must produce a *get* (writ of divorce) issued by an official Rabbinic Court as well as copies of Court rulings and decisions. See the section on divorced individuals below.
- A widow/widower must provide a copy of the late spouse's death certificate. See the section on widows/widowers below.
- Persons who are adopted are referred to a Rabbinic Court to verify their status.
- Registration fee

New immigrants must provide proof of Jewish status upon registering. The procedure is carried out in a local Rabbinic Court. Some of the documents that may be required include mother's birth certificate, parents' and grandparents' marriage certificate and ketuba, and other documents that attest to Jewish status. The length of this process can vary. The Marriage Department or the Rabbinic Court will provide instructions about the process and necessary documents.

Persons who require special clarification of status should consult with the Marriage Registry as soon as possible, 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 are 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 may not be related to the bride or groom, nor to each other. The bride and groom may use the same witnesses. The witnesses must bring their *te'udat zehut*.

Applicants who are not residents of the region in which they open a file must provide authorization of single status (*te'udat revakut*). The Religious Council of the applicant's local community can issue the *te'udat revakut*. There is a fee.



In order to apply for a *te'udat revakut*, it is necessary to present the following:

- Up-to-date *te'udat zehut*
- Two passport pictures.
- Parents' original marriage certificate
- Two witnesses to verify identity and to attest to written statements. The witnesses may be male or female, who are not related to the bride or groom nor to each other.
- A divorced individual must provide the original certificate of divorce and all Court documents.
- A widow/widower must present an official death certificate from the Population Authority

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 provides authorization for the free visit. The mikva attendant gives the bride a certificate that should be presented to the officiating rabbi at the time of the wedding.

There are certain calendar dates during which 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 Passover and Lag B'Omer. Consult with the registrar of marriages for guidelines.

The legal minimum age for a bride and groom in Israel is 18. A bride or groom under the age of 18 requires permission from a District Court (*beit mishpat machazi*) in order to marry. In some cases, the parents must also grant permission.



Divorced Individuals

A divorced individual must produce a *get* (writ of divorce) issued by an official Rabbinic Court. It may also be necessary to submit copies of Court rulings and decisions. An official Israeli Rabbinic Court must verify a *get* issued overseas. The Court checks that the divorce took place according to Halachic (Jewish legal) procedures, and that a valid *get* was issued. Consult with a *machleket nisu'in* for more information.

Converts

A convert to Judaism must present the local Rabbinic Court with documentation of the conversion from an official Rabbinic 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 the identity card of one of her children or a "*te'udat halitza*." *Halitza* is a ceremony that takes place when the husband has died without children. Halacha (Jewish law) obligates the late husband's brother to either marry the widow (*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 Rabbinic Court, which then issues a *te'udat halitza*. This document must be presented when registering to marry. This procedure is not necessary in cases in which the deceased has no living brothers.

Fees

There is a registration fee when opening a marriage file 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 and volunteers in National Service.



- University and yeshiva students up to age 30.
- Persons with disabilities, who are blind or have diminished vision.
- Persons receiving assistance from municipal social services departments, upon presentation of a letter of referral from the relevant department.

Note: for more information on registration or fees, contact a local Religious Council (see Useful Addresses) or view the Ministry of Religious Services website, www.dat.gov.il.

The Ceremony

The Chief Rabbinate must authorize the officiating rabbi (*mesader kiddushin*) selected to perform the ceremony. The couple must notify the *machleket nisu'in* of their 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 the couple has no preference, the *machleket nisu'in* can provide a rabbi.

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

Approximately one week before the wedding, the couple receives their ketubah (marriage contract) from the *machleket nisu'in*, which they must then give to the officiating rabbi. A couple may also supply their own ketubah, but this ketubah should be checked by the *machleket nisu'in* to make sure that the text is valid, as it is a legal document. Following the wedding, the officiating rabbi will ensure that a copy of the ketubah is transferred 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. The *machleket nisu'in* then issues the certificate.

For more information, consult a local Religious Council.



Procedures at the Population Authority

In order to list a new married name on a *te'udat zehut*, complete a request form for a change in personal status "*hoda'a al shinui matzav ishi*" (available for download from www.piba.gov.il) and submit it to an office of the Population Authority with the following documents:

- *Te'udat zehut*
- Spouse's *te'udat zehut*
- original marriage certificate
- the addendum (*sefach*) from the spouse's *te'udat zehut*
- both spouses' Israeli passports
- new, up-to-date photo (of correct size for the *te'udat zehut*)

A marriage certificate that was granted abroad must be authorized and verified (with an apostille seal in countries where this is available), as well as translated into Hebrew (certificates in English do not need to be translated). The translation must then be verified by a notary.

Prenuptial Agreements

In recent years, prenuptial agreements have become increasingly encouraged and accepted in Israel, primarily for the purpose of protecting women and preventing a situation in which a woman may be refused a "*get*" (writ of divorce). Most prenuptial agreements stipulate heavy financial penalties on husbands who refuse to give their wife a *get*.

A prenuptial agreement must be endorsed either by a notary, the Marriage Registrar of the Religious Council in which the couple registers to marry, or a Family or Rabbinic Court.



The Ministry of Aliyah and Integration

Various forms of assistance from the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration are according to marital status or family size. For this reason, new immigrants within their period of eligibility who marry or divorce should notify the Ministry as soon as possible. For more information, consult a personal absorption counselor at a Ministry branch or district office. Details are also available from "The Guide for the New Immigrant," available from the Publications Department. See the order form at the back of the booklet.

Divorce

Divorce procedures for the Jewish community in Israel are processed through one of the Rabbinic Courts located throughout the country. Issues such as child support may be brought before a civil Family Court but can also be heard in the Rabbinic Court. For more information, see the Rabbinic Court System website; www.rbc.gov.il, and the Civil Court website, www.court.gov.il.

To update a *te'udat zehut* subsequent to divorce, bring the following documents to the Population Authority:

- Divorce certificate and Court rulings
- Current *te'udat zehut*
- Request form (available for download from the Population Authority website, www.piba.gov.il)
- New photographs

Divorce certificates granted abroad must be authorized and verified with an apostille stamp (in countries where this is relevant), translated to Hebrew and notarized.



Burial Societies

There are approximately 600 burial societies (*chevrot kedishot* pl. *chevra kadisha* s.) in Israel, among which some 50 are independent, approximately 70 are connected to local Religious Councils, and the remainder to kibbutzim, moshavim, and local authorities. The burial societies arrange funerals 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 Department of Burial Services of the Ministry of Religious Services.

Official Procedures

Initial Steps

When a death occurs there are number of necessary steps.

Death Report

- A physician must come to the residence of any person who dies at home in order to confirm the death, and to issue a death report (*hoda'at petira*). The law also requires that the family call the Police anytime that a death occurs at home. Once the Police certifies that the death was from natural causes, they will issue permission to contact a burial society.
- When a death occurs in a hospital, the family must supply the hospital with the deceased's *te'udat zehut* in order for the hospital to issue the death report.
- When Magen David Adom (MDA) pronounces a death resulting from an accident, or that took place outside of the home or a hospital, the family must obtain three copies of the death report issued by an MDA doctor, as well as a medical report from MDA.



The family must obtain an authorization from the Police when a death was caused by an accident, or the cause of death was unclear.

Burial License

Once the family has the death report and a permit from the Police when necessary, they must then submit three copies of the death report signed by the physician, and the Police permit, 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*). During hours when the health office is closed, consult with the duty physician according to the posted list.

When a death occurs in a hospital, the hospital will most often arrange for the license. In many cases, the *chevra kadisha* (burial society) will take care of the arrangements for the death certificate.

In some situations, the Ministry of Health may wish to conduct an autopsy. In such an instance, the burial society can often offer guidance to the family.

For more information, contact the Ministry of Religious Services information line, 24 hours a day, every day except Shabbat and holidays. See Useful Addresses.

Death Certificates

The Population Authority issues official death certificates (*te'udat petira*) for persons who pass away in Israel only. Certificates are provided to immediate family members. In order to receive a certificate, it is necessary to supply the following:

- Identity number of the applicant.
- Personal details of the deceased, as listed at the time of passing, e.g., identity number, etc.
- Application form (available for download from www.piba.gov.il)

Applications for a death certificate may be submitted online through the Population Authority website (www.piba.gov.il), in



person, sent by fax or registered mail, or deposited in the “service box” of a Population Authority branch office.

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

Death certificates are issued to spouses, children, or parents of the deceased. An applicant for a death certificate who is not an immediate family member must submit a letter of explanation or power-of-attorney.

Note: When requesting a death certificate for a person who passed away before the year 1955, it is necessary to indicate their place of residence at the time of death in addition to their place of decease.

Registering with the Population Authority

The death must be registered with the Population Authority (*Minhal Uchlusin*), which issues an official copy of the death certificate. Note that it is possible to request the official death certificate at the same time as registering the death.

In order to register the death of a person who has passed away in Israel, provide the following documents:

- *Te'udat zehut* of the applicant (immediate family member).
- *Te'udat zehut* of the deceased.
- Addendum (*sefach*) of the *te'udat zehut* of the husband or wife of the deceased
- Original death notice provided by the hospital or district office of the Ministry of Health (see above).
- Request form (available for download from the Population Authority website).
- Application must be in person at a Population Authority office.

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

- *Te'udat zehut* of the applicant.



- *Te'udat zehut* of the deceased.
- Israeli passport belonging to the deceased.
- Verification of the death issued by an Israeli embassy or consulate overseas.
- It is necessary to present the original, official death certificate from overseas if the Israeli embassy or consulate overseas did not issue an authorization of the death. The certificate must be translated and notarized.

Arrangements

Even before the burial license is issued, the family may already begin consultations with a *chevra kadisha* 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.

The Ministry of Religious Services website contains a list of burial societies (in Hebrew): www.dat.gov.il.

The services of the *chevra kadisha* are not free of charge; however, fees are covered by the National Insurance Institute. 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 is arranged by the *chevra kadisha*. However, a family that 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," must pay an officially-determined fee.

The National Insurance Institute also covers the costs of transportation of the body to the cemetery, purification of the body, conducting the funeral, and burial. A family can also decide to pay the fees for additional services not covered by the National Insurance Institute. Be sure to obtain a receipt for any payments made. 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 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.

It is possible to request a specific burial plot while still alive, for a fee, through a *chevra kadisha*. The spouse of the deceased may request burial in an adjoining plot. A request for the adjoining plot should be submitted to the *chevra kadisha* within 30-45 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 the conclusion of 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.

In most cases, employment regulations, particularly those that govern the public sector, allow for paid leave for immediate relatives during the seven-day period of mourning.

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 dressed and wrapped in special shrouds (*tachrichim*) and transported on a covered stretcher.

Families are entitled to choose a rabbi other than the one provided by the *chevra kadisha*, or any other person/persons, to deliver a eulogy during the funeral. Unlike funerals which with many new immigrants may be familiar in their countries of origin, a "funeral home" (*beit hesped* lit. "eulogy house") in Israel is in many cases



simply a plain building or sheltered area at the cemetery within which the initial part of the proceedings take place. There is no formal seating, or in most instances, seating at all. Nor are there flowers or other decorations. The family does not sit apart from other mourners but will usually be surrounded and supported by those close to them. At some funerals, eulogies are given at the gravesite itself.

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, although it may be delayed in order to allow for the arrival of close relatives from overseas.

Prior to the funeral, the officiating rabbi or member of the *chevra kadisha* conducts a short ceremony known as "*kriya*," (literally 'tearing') in which a small cut is made in the clothing of each member of the immediate family as a sign of mourning. Mourners can also request that the cutting be done by a friend or other relative.

Civil Burial

Israeli law enables "civil burial" for persons who prefer a different type of funeral than that conducted by the traditional burial societies. During a civil burial the family may choose the type of service they wish and incorporate traditional and other elements as they see fit. Civil burials are covered by the National Insurance Institute, but the family may have to pay for additional services such as transportation.

Assistance From the National Insurance Institute

The family members of a deceased individual insured by the National Insurance Institute may be entitled to various forms of benefits, according to conditions of eligibility.



Survivor's Pension

The National Insurance Institute pays a survivor's pension to eligible family members on condition that the death did not occur during a war or an enemy action.

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

- The National Insurance Institute reevaluates the eligibility for a pension of a widow who remarries.
- 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 survivor's pension who has no other source of income may be eligible to receive an income supplement.
- The National Insurance Institute pays a Bar/Bat Mitzva grant to children at the age of 13 for boys and 12 for girls.

Victims of Enemy Actions

In most cases, a social worker from the National Insurance Institute will contact the families of victims of enemy actions, and guide them through the process of claiming any assistance and compensation to which they may be entitled. Persons who are not contacted should consult with a branch office of the National Insurance Institute. New immigrants can also contact a personal absorption counselor at the nearest Ministry of Aliyah and Integration branch or district office.

The Ministry of Defense is responsible for all matters pertaining to fallen soldiers and their families.



Special Childbirth Payments

The National Insurance Institute may make a special payment for the newborn child of a mother who passes away during childbirth, or within one year of giving birth, 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 benefit if, due to the mother's death, he 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. Details are also available on their website: www.btl.gov.il.



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.

Ministry of Aliyah and Integration

www.klita.gov.il | info@moia.gov.il

Main Office

2 Rehov Kaplan
Kiryat Ben Gurion
POB 13061
Jerusalem 91130

National Telephone Information Center (03) 9733333

Southern and Jerusalem District Headquarters

31 Rehov Zalman Shazar Beer Sheva (08) 6261216
Fax: (08) 6230811

Publications Department Fax: (02) 6241585

Haifa and Northern District Headquarters (04) 8631111

15 Rehov HaPalyam Haifa Fax: (04) 8622589

Tel Aviv and Central District Headquarters (03) 5209112

6 Rehov Esther HaMalka Tel Aviv Fax: (03) 5209121



Emergency Telephone Numbers

Police 100
www.police.gov.il

Magen David Adom 101
www.mda.org.il

United Hatzala 1221
www.israelrescue.org

Fire Department 102
www.102.co.il

Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel
www.1202.org.il

National Hotline 1202
Hotline for Religious Women (02) 6730002
Hotline for Men 1203
Hotline for Religious Men (02) 5328000

Eran Mental Health Hotline 1201
www.eran.org.il | info@eran.org.il
Senior Citizens *3201
Soldiers *2201

The Home Front Command 104
www.oref.org.il

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-220-000



Ministry of Religious Services

www.dat.gov.il

7 Rehov Kanfei Nesharim
95464 (02) 5311147

24-Hour Information Line (02) 5311111

Local Religious Councils

(Selected list only. See www.dat.gov.il for more information or contact your municipal information line 105/6/7)

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

2 Rehov Szold
Ashdod (08) 8630630

1 Rehov Eshtaol Migdal Amirim
Ashkelon (08) 6714401

8 Rehov HaTalmud Schuna Daled
Beer Sheva (08) 6204015

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

15 Rehov Remez P.O.B. 5
Beit She'an (04) 6588610

615 Rehov Herzl
Beit Shemesh (02) 9911361

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 Eilot 409/4 P.O.B. 15 Eilat	(08) 6376135
Rehov HaTa'ana Givat Ze'ev	(02) 5362755
60 Rehov Herzl Haifa	(04) 8605600
Rehov HaRav Goren Herzlia	(09) 9504851
12 Rehov HaHavatzelet Jerusalem	(02) 6214888
7 Rehov HaYarden P.O.B. 585 Kiryat Shmona	(04) 6940221
39 Rehov Midbar Yehuda Ma'aleh Adumim	(02) 5354001
4 Rehov Smilansky Netanya	(09) 8336324
37 Rehov Hovevei Tzion Petach Tikva	(03) 9051501
8 Rehov Klausner Ra'ananna	(09) 7431356
47 Rehov Herzl P.O.B. 129 Ramat Gan	(03) 6700555



Rehov Goldberg P.O.B. 1047 Rehovot	(08) 9362681
1 Rehov Uri Tel Aviv	(03) 6938930
78 HaPalmach Tzfat	(04) 6971633
32 Rehov HaNadiv Zichron Ya'akov	(04) 6390712

Rabbinic Courts

www.rbc.gov.il

Information Line 1-700-501531

See the Rabbinic Court website or call the Information Line for details about public reception hours, etc.

Main Court

22 Rehov Kanfei Nesharim
Jerusalem

District Courts

15 Rehov Yehuda
Ariel

7 Sderot Begin
Ashdod

19 Sd. Ben Gurion
Ashkelon



4 Rehov HaTikva
Beer Sheva

28 Rehov Yalag
Haifa

24 Rehov King George
Jerusalem

3 Rehov Barket
Netanya

6 Rehov Spiegel
Petach Tikva

4 Rehov Binyamin
Rehovot

33 Sderot David HaMelech
Tel Aviv

16 Rehov Ben Zakai
Tiberias

6 Rehov Weizmann
Tzfat

The Population and Immigration Authority

www.piba.gov.il

National Telephone Information Center *3450/1-222-3450

Branch Offices

Contact the National Telephone Information Center for public reception hours and other details.

Mercaz Tzimer, 1 Rehov Begin
Ashdod



9 Rehov Katznelson
Ashkelon

4 Sd. HaTikva
Beer Sheva

Commercial Center, Beit Katzir
Beit Shemesh

89 Rehov Hazon Ish
Bnai Brak

140 Rehov Weizmann
Cfar Saba

HaKenyon HaAdom
Eilat

15 Rehov HaPalyam
Haifa

2 Rehov Hadar
Herzlia

1 Rehov Shlomtzion HaMalka
Jerusalem

1 Rehov HaTilton
Modi'in

13 Rehov Remez
Netanya

6 Rehov Mohliver
Petach Tikva

2 Rehov Bialik
Ramat Gan



3 Yisrael Galilee
Rishon LeTzion

4 Rehov Binyamin
Rehovot

125 Derech Begin
Tel Aviv

4 Rehov Weizmann
Tzfat

Visit the Population Authority website for more locations.

The National Insurance Institute

www.btl.gov.il

National Call Center *6050 or 1-222-6050

Payment Line (08) 6509911

Pregnancy Risk Line (08) 6509934

Main Office

13 Sderot Weizmann (02) 6709211
Jerusalem

District Offices

14 Rehov HaBanim
Ashdod

101 Rehov HaNasi
Ashkelon



31 Rehov Shazar
Beer Sheva

11 Rehov Nasi Yisrael
Carmiel

39 Rehov Weizmann
Cfar Saba

7 Rehov Hillel Yaffe
Hadera

8 Rehov HaPalyam
Haifa

4 Rehov Shimon Ben Shetach
Jerusalem

62 Sderot Weizmann
Naharia

68 Rehov Herzl
Netanya

72 Rehov Rothschild
Petach Tikva

15 Rehov HaHashmonaim
Ramat Gan

64 Rehov Remez
Rehovot

7 Rehov Yisrael Galili
Rishon LeTzion

17 Rehov Yitzhak Sadeh
Tel Aviv



1 Rehov Hofayin
Tiberias

Branch Offices

3 Rehov HaNasi
Beit Shemesh

12 Rehov Ahronovitch
Bnai Brak

12 Rehov Midian
Eilat

22 Rehov Ben Gurion
Herzlia

Rehov Tel Hai, HaMashbir Bldg.
Kiryat Shmona

100 Rehov HaPalmach
Tzfat

See the National Insurance Institute website or contact a local municipal authority information line (105/6/7) for more locations.

The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services

www.molsa.gov.il

Main Office
2 Rehov Kaplan
Jerusalem

(02) 6752577

Crisis Line

118



Department of Child Services (Adoption)

12 Rehov Omar Elkayam (04) 8142600
Haifa

39 Rehov Yermiyahu (02) 5085303
Jerusalem

22 Sderot Yerushalayim (03) 5125530
Tel Aviv

4 Rehov HaTikva (08) 6264930
Beer Sheva

The Ministry of Health

www.health.gov.il

“Kol HaBriut” Telephone Information Service *5400/(08) 6241010
Fax: (02) 5655969

S-Th: 8:00-19:00, Fridays and holiday eves, 8:00- 13:00

2 Rehov Ben Tabai (02) 6705705/*5400
Jerusalem

District Health Offices

Barzilai Medical Center (08) 6745555
Ashkelon

4 Rehov HaTikva (08) 6263511
Beer Sheva

15 A Rehov HaPalyam (04) 8633111
Haifa

86 Rehov Yaffo (02) 5314811/ *5400
Jerusalem



23 Sd. Weizmann Netanya	(09) 8300111
31 Rehov Echad HaAm Petach Tikva	(03) 9051818
10 Rehov Oppenheimer Rehovot	(08) 9485858
12 Rehov HaArba'a Tel Aviv	(03) 5634848
40 Rehov Alchadaf Tiberias	(04) 6710300
100 Rehov HaHalutz Tzfat	(04) 6994222

Contact the Ministry for more addresses, or see their website.

Voluntary and Non-Profit Organizations

Note: the following addresses are offered as an information service only. The Ministry of Aliyah and Integration does **not** recommend or endorse any particular organization. It is up to each reader to investigate and determine the organizations appropriate to their needs.

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.

43 Rehov Emek Rephaim
Jerusalem (02) 5664390



Israel Religious Action Center

www.irac.org.il | info@irac.org

The Israel Religious Action Center is the Israeli branch of the Movement for Progressive Judaism. Among their services is a free legal aid and counseling center for new immigrants who need assistance with issues of personal status.

13 Rehov King David
Jerusalem

(02) 6203323

76 Rehov Ibn Gvirol
Tel Aviv

(03) 6958218

Itim - Jewish Life Information Center

www.itim.org.il | itim@itim.org.il

Itim provides information, counseling and advocacy services, and assistance navigating the bureaucracy related to Jewish life-cycle events, including marriage, divorce, conversion, and burial. Services are available in English, Hebrew, and Russian.

Information Line

1-700-500-507

Kadishanet

www.kadishanet.co.il

Kadishanet is a Hebrew-language database that contains a list of cemeteries in Israel, information about funeral customs, monuments, procedures with the National Insurance Institute, information to assist in determining dates and times for memorial services, and other topics.



Menucha Nechona

www.menucha-nechona.co.il

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

Beer Sheva	(08) 6233239
Cfar Sava	050-3395800
Kiryat Tivon	052-3209184
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.

16 Rehov Tiomkin Tel Aviv	(03) 5660504
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Council of Young Israel Rabbis

[www.facebook.com > Places > Jerusalem, Israeli](https://www.facebook.com/Places/Jerusalem,Israel/)

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

58 Rehov King George Jerusalem	(02) 6254983
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Edeia

www.edeia.co.il

Edeia is an organization for the protection of men's rights in divorce.

National Information Line

1-800-270-280

31 Rehov HaYetzira
Ramat Gan

(03) 6132225

Equal Parenting Association

www.horut-shava.org.il | contact@horut-shava.org.il

The Equal Parenting Association offers assistance to families in arranging equal access and responsibilities towards the children following a divorce.

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

www.granitwomen.org | granit@granitwomen.org

G.R.N.I.T provides 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
Givat Shmuel

053-2460866



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

www.icar.org.il | icar@icar.org.il

I.C.A.R. offers information, counseling, a telephone hotline, and referrals.

68/D Rehov Tchernichovsky
Jerusalem

050-7857376

Mevoi Satum

www.agunot.org | mavoisatum@mavoisatum.org

Mevoi Satum provides information, counseling, financial aid, and legal aid to women refused a religious divorce.

8 Rehov HaTa'assia
Jerusalem

(02) 6712282
Fax: (02) 6711314

Yad Lelsha/ Legal Aid Center and Hotline

www.yadlaisha.org.il | yadlaisha@yadlaisha.org.il

The Yad Lelsha Legal Aid Center and Hotline assists women with legal representation in the Rabbinic Courts during the process of obtaining a get (religious divorce). The Legal Aid Center has a staff of female Rabbinic court advocates.

Hotline
Jerusalem Center
Tel Aviv Center
Beer Sheva Center

1-800-200-380
(02) 6710876
(03) 6951899
(072) 2400520



Tzohar

www.tzohar.org.il | office@tzohar.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
Industrial Zone, Lod

077-7756565
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 Aliyah and Integration, 15 Rehov Hillel, Jerusalem 9458115. The publications will be mailed to you free of charge.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guide for the New Immigrant | <input type="checkbox"/> Retirees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Absorption Basket | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulated Professions- Where to Apply |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ConsumerFocus Magazine | <input type="checkbox"/> Accountants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Artists, Writers, and Athletes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer and Hi-Tech Professionals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Steps | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineers and Architects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guarding Your Health in Israel | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawyers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guide to Services for Persons with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Professionals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guide to Transportation in Israel | <input type="checkbox"/> Nurses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guide to Ulpan Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychologists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services in Israel | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientists and Researchers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Workers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Life Cycle in Israel | <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Where to Turn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Insurance Institute | <input type="checkbox"/> Registering for a Health Fund |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Information for Olim Newspaper |

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Date _____



A moment of your time!

In order to improve the level and usefulness of the material presented in this booklet, we would appreciate it if you would answer the following questions:

1. Where did you get the brochure "The Life Cycle In Israel?"

Airport Ministry of Aliyah and Integration Other (specify)

2. To what extent did this booklet provide you with the information that you needed? (1 is the lowest rating, 5 is the highest rating)

1 2 3 4 5 Comments _____

3. Please rate the following areas from 1 to 5 (5 being the highest rating)

Clarity of the Text 1 2 3 4 5

Sufficiency of Details 1 2 3 4 5

Design of the Brochure 1 2 3 4 5

Usefulness of the Brochure 1 2 3 4 5

We would appreciate the following information for statistical purposes:

Profession _____ Age _____

Country of Origin _____ Year of Aliyah _____

Place of Residence _____ Date _____

Please send the completed questionnaire to the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, Publications Department, English Section, 15 Rehov Hillel, Jerusalem, 9458115, or by fax to (02) 6241585. You can also place this questionnaire in the public suggestions box at an office of the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration nearest you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Best wishes for an easy and successful absorption!



The Life Cycle In Israel

ENGLISH | מעגל החיים בישראל

משרד העלייה והקליטה

Ministry of Aliyah and Integration



הופק על ידי אגף מידע ופרסום
משרד העלייה והקליטה
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