

המשרד לקליטת העלייה
Ministry of Immigrant Absorption



ENGLISH

מעגל החיים

The Life Cycle in Israel

6th Edition



Produced by

The Publications Department

Ministry of Immigrant Absorption
15 Rehov Hillel, Jerusalem 9458115

© All Rights Reserved
Jerusalem 2013

Ida Ben Shetreet - Director, Publications Department

Laura L. Woolf - Chief Editor, English Language Publications

Catalogue Number: 0113313060

הופק על ידי

אגף מידע ופרסום

המשרד לקליטת העלייה

רח' הלל 15, ירושלים 9458115

© כל הזכויות שמורות

ירושלים 2013

Telephone Information Center (03) 9733333

e-mail: info@moia.gov.il



www.klita.gov.il

הודפס על ידי המדפיס הממשלתי

Table of Contents

The Life Cycle in Israel	5	מעגל החיים בישראל
Birth	6	לידה
Adoption	14	אימוץ
Marriage	15	נישואין
Burial	23	קבורה
Glossary	30	מילון
Useful Addresses	33	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 describe 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 sixth 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 Social Services, 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, a woman who prefers a specific doctor for the delivery is usually limited to the hospital in which that doctor works, and is required to pay fees. It is necessary to register at the hospital by the fifth month of pregnancy in order to ensure a place. At that time, present both spouses' *te'udat zehut* (identity card) and health fund membership cards, in addition to 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).



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 details. For more information, see the booklet entitled "National Insurance," available from the Publications Department. See the order form at the back. Information is also available on 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 is named, it is necessary to register the infant at the Population Administration (*Minhal Uchlusin*) of the Ministry of the Interior and to request an official birth certificate. The child must also be 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. An Israeli citizen who gives birth to a child outside of Israel should consult with the Israeli embassy or consulate for information.
- In order to request a birth certificate, provide the Population Administration with the parents' 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 hauchlusin,*) available for download from the Population Administration website, or by contacting the Information Line. See Useful Addresses. The documents may be submitted by fax or mail, or in person at a branch office of the Population Administration.
- It is possible to request a birth certificate in both Hebrew and English.



Registering a Newborn with the Population Administration

- To register a child born in Israel, provide the Population Administration with a copy of both parents' *te'udat zehut* including the addendum (*sefach,*) and the birth notice issued in the hospital. Documents may be sent by fax or registered mail, or may be deposited in the "service box" of a Population Administration branch office. On the upper left-hand side, fill in the first name given to the child. One of the parents must sign this. In addition, it is necessary to fill out a request form, which is available for download from the Population Administration website: www.piba.gov.il. Forms are also available from a clerk at a post office branch, and can be deposited in the "service box" (*tevat sherut*) at the post office.



In order to register a child born overseas, it is necessary to appear in person at a Population Administration office, and provide both parents' *te'udat zehut*, and a birth notice issued by an Israeli consulate or embassy overseas. If no such notice was issued, present an original, authorized birth certificate, as well as a notarized translation. It is also necessary to present the child or parent's foreign passport.

If the parents are married but have different last names, the Population Administration will assign the father's last name to the child. 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 leshinuim hashlamot vetikunim bepratei mersham hauchlusin*) available from the Population Administration website: www.piba.gov.il, and both parents' identity cards, including the addendum (*sefach*).

If the parents are not married, the Population Administration will assign the mother's last name to the child. 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 leshinuim, hashlamot, vetikunim bepratei mersham hauchlusin*) available from the Population Administration website, both parents' identity cards, including the addendum (*sefach*), and a 'recognition of paternity' form (*tofes hakara beavhut*,) also available from the website, www.piba.gov.il.

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 Population Administration 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

For a baby to have a passport, it is necessary to request that one be issued. The law does not permit a baby to be listed in a parent's passport. In order to apply for a passport, a parent must bring the child to a Population Administration office, along with their *te'udat zehut*, two passport photos of the child, and a request form (available for download from the Population Administration 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.

Updating the Parents' Te'udat Zehut

In order for the parents to update the attachment (*sepach*) of their *te'udat zehut* to include their new child, it is necessary bring the following to an office of the Population Administration:

- Current attachment
- Official document that attests to updated status (i.e., birth certificate)
- Request form for a *te'udat zehut* (available for download from www.piba.gov.il)

The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

Since many forms of Ministry of Immigrant Absorption assistance depend on family size, new-immigrant families within their period of eligibility for assistance, who have a new child, should inform the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption 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.

National Insurance Institute Aid to New Mothers

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

Hospitalization Grant

The hospitalization grant (*ma'anak ishpuz*) is paid directly to the hospital in which the birth took place. The grant 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 parents receive child allowance payments; for the first birth, the grant is paid into the bank account the parents indicate when they register 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 gives birth in a hospital, or is 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 takes place in Israel) or she is the wife of an individual who 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 takes place in Israel).

A claim for the grant is submitted to the National Insurance Institute via the hospital in which the birth takes place. For this purpose, the parents must bring their *te'udat zehut* or other identification to the hospital, and provide the hospital with their 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 she does not work due to pregnancy and giving birth, or caring for an adopted child.

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

The allowance 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 they accumulate an insurance period as outlined below.

Eligibility

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

- Employed or self-employed in Israel.



- A woman age 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, it is necessary to pay 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. A woman who makes payments for 6 out of the previous 14 months before stopping work can be eligible for an allowance for a period of 6 weeks.

Fill out and submit a claim form for an allowance either in person at the nearest National Insurance Institute branch office, or by mail. Forms are available from a NII branch office, or from their website: www.btl.gov.il. Submit the form upon discontinuation of work, but no earlier than 9 weeks before the estimated date of birth. A woman who submits the form prior to the birth must have medical confirmation of her estimated due date. It is possible to submit forms up to 12 months from the day of becoming eligible for an allowance.

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

Paternity Allowance

According to law, under certain conditions, a father can take leave instead of the mother. Consult with the National Insurance Institute for information.

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 the 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. It is necessary to provide the hospital with the parents' 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 the recipient's 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 NII.

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 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.



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 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.



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 as listed in that person's *te'udat zehut*. Residence is defined as one's fixed abode as proved by the address listed in their *te'udat zehut*, and in which they resided for over six months. Locate the nearest Religious Council by visiting the website of the Ministry of Religious Services, www.dat.gov.il.

It is necessary to 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 either member of the couple has already opened a marriage file with another person, it is necessary to cancel the file before opening a new one.

New immigrants must provide proof of Jewish status upon registering. The procedure is carried out in a local Rabbinical 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.

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 and 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 that in which their parents registered to marry may need to supply their parents' marriage certificate or *ketubah*.
- 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 who were adopted are referred to a Rabbinical Court to verify their status.
- Registration fee

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 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 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.

Note that 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 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. In some cases, the parents' permission may also be required.

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 a marriage license, the *machleket nisu'in* will advertise the couple's 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. It may also be necessary to submit copies of Court rulings and decisions. If the *get* was issued overseas, it is necessary to receive authorization at an official Israeli Rabbinical Court. The Court checks 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. Consult with a *machleket nisu'in* for more information.

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 in which the husband has died without children. The late husband's brother is Halachically obligated 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 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 in which 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 a bride or groom resides, they must obtain a *te'udat revakut* (authorization of unmarried status) from the *machleket nisu'in* in the locality in which they do reside. In order to apply for a *te'udat revakut*, it is necessary to present an up-to-date *te'udat zehut*, make a written declaration of personal status, provide two (male) witnesses to verify identity and to attest to written statements. It is also necessary to 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.

Note: for more information on registration or fees, contact a local Religious Council. See Useful Addresses.

The Ceremony

The Chief Rabbinate must authorize the rabbi selected by the couple 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 (*mesader kiddushin*). It is also permissible for a couple to supply their own *ketubah*, but it should be checked by the *machleket nisu'in* to make sure that the text is valid. The officiating rabbi will ensure that a copy of the *ketubah* is transferred



either by himself or by the couple to the *machleket nisu'in* in which the marriage is registered.

In order to receive an official marriage certificate, it is necessary for the couple to appear in person at the *machleket nisu'in* approximately two weeks following the ceremony, where the certificate is issued.

For more information, contact a local Religious Council.

Procedures at the Population Administration

An individual who wishes to have their new married name listed on their *te'udat zehut* must fill out a request form (available for download from www.piba.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 their 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*)

In order for a newly-married person to update the attachment (*sefach*) of their *te'udat zehut*, it is necessary bring the following to an office of the Population Administration:

- Current *te'udat zehut* and attachment
- Official document that attests to updated status (i.e., marriage certificate)
- Request form for a *te'udat zehut* (available for download from www.piba.gov.il.)



Prenuptial Agreements

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

Israeli law requires that a prenuptial agreement be endorsed either by a notary, the Marriage Registrar of the Religious Council in which the couple registers to marry, or a Family or Rabbinical Court.

The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

Since many forms of Ministry of Immigrant Absorption assistance depend on family size, new immigrants within their period of eligibility for assistance who marry or divorce should notify the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption 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 Rabbinical Courts located throughout the country. Issues 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.





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

- Divorce certificate and Court rulings
- Current *te'udat zehut*
- Israeli passport
- Request form (available for download from the Population Administration website)
- New photographs



Burial

Burial Societies

There are approximately 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 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, it is necessary to take a number of steps.

If a death takes place at home, a physician must come to the house and confirm the death. The physician must issue a death certificate (*te'udat petira*). The law also mandates 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 (*chevra kadisha*).

When a death occurs in a hospital, it is necessary to 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, it is necessary 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, it is necessary to obtain an authorization from the Police.

It is then necessary to submit the relevant documents (three copies of the death certificate signed by the physician, and a permit from the Police if the death was not natural) 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. In some cases, the *chevra kadisha* (burial society) will take care of the arrangements for the death certificate.

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

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

Registering the Death

The death must be registered with the Population Administration (*Minhal Uchlusin*) of Ministry of the Interior, 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 that has passed away in Israel, it is necessary to provide the following documents to a Population Administration office:

- *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).
- Request form (available for download from the Population Authority website).
- The request must be made in person at a Population Authority office.

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

Official death certificates are issued by the Ministry of the Interior for persons that pass away in Israel only. Requests must be made in person at a Population Administration office. In order to receive a certificate, it is necessary to 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 (available for download from www.piba.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 for a person who passed away before the year 1955, it is important to indicate their place of residence at the time of 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, 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, 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 is 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, conducting 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. It is possible to receive a list of the officially-set fees from the burial society. Information is also available on the Ministry of Religious Services website: www.dat.gov.il. 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 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.

It is possible to request a specific burial plot while still alive, through a *chevra kadisha*. The spouse of the deceased may request burial in an adjoining plot. A request for the adjoining plot must be submitted 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 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.

Employment regulations, particularly those that govern the public sector, allow for paid leave for immediate relatives of a deceased person during the seven-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 Councils 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.

In most cases, families of victims of enemy actions should be contacted by a social worker from the National Insurance Institute, who will guide them through the process of claiming any 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 Immigrant Absorption branch or district office.

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 survivor's 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 survivor's 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>	מנהל 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 HaChevratim'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 olah hadasha</i>	עולה חדש עולה חדשה
Spouse	<i>ben/bat zoog</i>	בן/בת זוג
Personal absorption Counselor	<i>yoetz klita ishi yoetzet klita ishit</i>	יועץ קליטה אישי יועצת קליטה אישית
Rabbi	<i>rav</i>	רב
Wedding officiant	<i>misader kiddushin</i>	מסדר קידושין

Documents

Authorization	<i>ishur</i>	אישור
Birth certificate	<i>te'udat leida</i>	תעודת לידה
Burial license	<i>rishayon kvura</i>	רישיון 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
Prenuptial Agreement	<i>heskem trom nisu'in</i>	הסכם טרום נישואין
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
Child allowance	<i>kitzvat yeladim</i>	קצבת ילדים
Claim	<i>tvia'a</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 אשפוז
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'erim</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.klita.gov.il
e-mail: 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

Haifa and Northern District Headquarters

15 Rehov HaPalyam (04) 8631111
Haifa

Tel Aviv and Central District Headquarters

6 Rehov Esther HaMalka (03) 5209112
Jerusalem
Tel Aviv



Address

Telephone \ Fax

Jerusalem District Office

15 Rehov Hillel
Jerusalem

1-599-500-923

Publications Department

Fax: (02) 6241585

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Police

www.police.gov.il

100

Magen David Adom

www.mda.org.il

101

Fax for Hearing Impaired Persons:

1-800-500-101

United Hatzala

www.israelrescue.org

1221

Fire Department

www.102.co.il

102

Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel

www.1202.org.il

National Hotline

1202

Hotline for Religious Women

(02) 6730002

Hotline for Men and Boys

1203

Religious Men's Hotline

(02) 5328000

Home Front Command

www.oref.org.il

104

Eran Mental Health Hotline

www.eran.org.il

info@eran.org.il

1201

Senior Citizens

*3201

Internet chat- ICQ Number

#12010

Soldiers

*2201

Domestic Violence Hotline

118



Ministry of Religious Services

www.dat.gov.il

7 Rehov Kanfei Nesharim
95464

(02) 5311147

24-Hour Information Line

(02) 5311111

Kashrut Division

(02) 5313131

Public Inquiries

(02) 5311385

The Ministry of the Interior/Population Administration

(Misrad HaPnim)

www.pnim.gov.il

e-mail: pniof@moin.gov.il

Population Administration

(02) 6294701

www.piba.gov.il

Telephone Information Center
www.oc-info@gov

*3450/1-222-3450

Public Inquiries

(02) 6294701/2

Dial *3450 or 1-222-3450 for public reception hours and other details.

Mercaz Tzimer, 1 Rehov Begin

Ashdod

1 Rehov HaNachal

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



Address

Telephone \ Fax

2 Rehov Hadar
Herzlia

1 Rehov Shlomit Zion 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

Call a municipal authority information line (105/6/7) for more information about local branch offices.

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

Counseling Service for Senior Citizens
English Line

(02) 6463404

Main Office

13 Sderot Weizmann
Jerusalem 95437

(02) 6709211



District Offices

Call the Information Line for details about public reception hours, etc.

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

42 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

Branch Offices

14 Rehov Habanim
Ashdod



Address

Telephone \ Fax

8 Rehov HaNasi
Beit Shemesh

12 Rehov Ahronovitch
Bnai Brak

12 Rehov Midian
Eilat

22 Rehov Ben Gurion
Herzlia

50 Sd. Tel Hai Binyan Lev Halr
Kiryat Shmona

100 Rehov HaPalmach
Tzfat 13224

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

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
1 Rehov Szold Ashdod	(08) 8630630
1 Rehov Eshtaol Migdal Amirim Ashkelon	(08) 6714401
8 Rehov HaTalmud Schuna Daled Beer Sheva	(08) 6204000
4 Rehov Ba'al HaTanya Beitar Illit	(02) 5725561
15 Rehov Remez P.O.B. 5 Beit She 'an	(04) 6586249



Address	Telephone \ Fax
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) 7656576
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) 5362756
4 Rehov Shmuel Ben Adia Haifa	(04) 8641187
7 Rehov HaRav Goren Herzlia	(09) 9504851
12 Rehov HaHavatzelet Jerusalem	(02) 6214888
7 Rehov HaYarden P.O.B. 585 Kiryat Shmona	(04) 6940221
2 Kikar Kedem Ma'aleh Adumim	(02) 5354005
4 Rehov Smilansky Netanya	(09) 8612952
37 Rehov Hovevei Tzion Petach Tikva	(03) 9051500
18 Rehov Klaussner Ra'ananna	(09) 7431356
47 Rehov Herzl P.O.B. 129 Ramat Gan	(03) 6700552/3



Address	Telephone \ Fax
2 Rehov Goldberg P.O.B. 1047 Rehovot	(08) 9362681
1 Rehov Uri Tel Aviv	(03) 6938900
78 HaPalmach Tzfat	(04) 6971633
32 Rehov HaNadiv Zichron Ya'akov	(04) 6390712

Rabbinical Courts

www.rbc.gov.il

Information Line

1-700-501531

See the Rabbinical 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

1 Sderot Begin

Ashdod

4 Rehov Katznelson

Ashkelon

4 Rehov HaTikva

Beer Sheva

28 Rehov Yalag

Haifa

24 Rehov King George

Jerusalem

3 Rehov Barket

Netanya

6 Rehov Spiegel

Petach Tikva



Address

Telephone \ Fax

4 Rehov Binyamin

Rehovot

33 Sderot David HaMelech

Tel Aviv

Kikar HaAtzma'ut

Binyan Rasco

Tiberias

6 Rehov Weizmann

Tzfat

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services

www.molsa.gov.il

Main Office

(02) 6708277/8

10 Rehov Yad Harutzim

Jerusalem

Crisis Line

118

District Offices

12 Rehov Omar Elkayam

(04) 8142600

Haifa

24 Rehov Kanfei Nesharim

(02) 6218550

Jerusalem

22 Sderot Yerushalayim

(03) 5125530

Tel Aviv

4 Rehov HaTikva

(08) 6264930

Beer Sheva

The Ministry of Health

www.health.gov.il

2 Rehov Ben Tabai

(02) 6705705/*5400

Jerusalem 91010

District Health Offices

Barzilai Medical Center

(08) 6745555

Ashkelon

4 Rehov HaTikva

(08) 6263511

Beer Sheva



Address	Telephone \ Fax
15 A Rehov HaPalyam Haifa	(04) 8633111
86 Rehov Yaffo Jerusalem	(02) 5314887/ *5400
23 Sd. Weizmann Netanya	(09) 8300120
31 Rehov Echad HaAm Petach Tikva	(03) 9051818
10 Rehov Oppenheimer Rehovot	(08) 9485858
14 Rehov HaArba'a Tel Aviv	(03) 5634848
1 Rehov Alchadaf Tiberias	(04) 6710300
52 Rehov HaPalmach 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 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.

Israel Religious Action Center

www.ira.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 who need assistance with issues of personal status.

Itim - Jewish Life Information Center

www.itim.org.il
info@itim.org.il

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



Address

Telephone \ Fax

Hotline
P.O.B. 4724
Jerusalem

1-700-500-507

Menucha Nechona

www.menucha-nechona.co.il

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

Beer Sheva and surrounding area
Cfar Sava
Kiryat Tivon
Tel Aviv

(08) 6233239
050-3395800
052-3209184
(03) 5440833

New Family

www.newfamily.org.il

E-mail: n_family@netvision.net.il

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

34 Rehov Nachmani
Tel Aviv

(03) 5660504

Council of Young Israel Rabbis

www.youngisraelrabbis.org.il

info@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
Jerusalem

(02) 6254983

Edeia

www.edeia.co.il

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

31 Rehov HaYetzira
Ramat Gan

(03) 6132225

20 Rehov HaNevi'im
Haifa

(04) 8666062



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.

P.O.B. 5533 (03) 6292646
Ramat Gan

Family Law

www.familylaw.org.il
office@familylaw.org.il

Family Law is a non-profit organization that can give initial legal advice and counseling to married and common-law couples about division of assets and other family-law issues.

Family Mediation Service

www.merkaz-gishur.org.il

The Family Mediation Service provides marriage counseling and divorce mediation, support groups for children during and following divorce, and social and emotional support to adults going through divorce.

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

www.granitwomen.org
tikvar@zahav.net.il

G.R.N.I.T. is an organization that 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 (03) 5320035
Givat Shmuel 54051

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.

P.O. Box 68131 (02) 6721401
Jerusalem 91031



Address

Telephone \ Fax

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

Beer Sheva and Southern Branch

(08) 6421313

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 Immigrant Absorption, 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"/> Accountants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Absorption Basket | <input type="checkbox"/> Artists, Writers, and Athletes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer Focus Magazine | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer and Hi-Tech Professionals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineers and Architects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawyers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information for Immigrant Students | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Professionals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Steps | <input type="checkbox"/> Nurses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guarding Your Health in Israel | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychologists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Guide to Services for the Disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientists and Researchers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Guide to Transportation in Israel | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Workers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Guide to Ulpan Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services in Israel | <input type="checkbox"/> Where to Turn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Assistance to Victims of Enemy Actions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Life Cycle in Israel | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Registering for a Health Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Insurance Institute | <input type="checkbox"/> Information for Olim Newspaper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pensioners | <input type="checkbox"/> Shiluv Magazine |

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 Immigrant Absorption 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 _____ Gender M F Age _____

Country of Origin _____ Year of Aliyah _____

Place of Residence _____ Date _____

Please send the completed questionnaire to the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, 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 Immigrant Absorption nearest you.

Thank you for your cooperation. Best wishes for an easy and successful absorption!

