



B'RIT MILAH SUPPORT POLICY

Date Approved:

POLICY STATEMENT

B'rit Milah, or *bris*, is a symbol of the covenant between the Jewish people and God. Originally made with Abraham, this commandment is the first one specific to the Jews. Up to this point in the history of the Shaar, its members have taken on the planning and expense of the *B'rit Milah* themselves. This policy describes the ways that Shaar Shalom will now provide logistical and financial support to members celebrating this major lifecycle event.

DEFINITIONS

Member—an individual included in one of the following three classes of membership:

1. **Single** – a Jewish person over the age of eighteen (18) years who is not otherwise included in a Family Membership.
2. **Family** – includes
 - A single Jewish adult with one or more dependent Jewish children; or
 - Cohabiting Jewish adults, with or without dependent Jewish children; or
 - Such other definition as designated by the Board.
3. Such other classes as may be designated by the Board from time to time

The synagogue office retains a list of the specific individuals covered under each class of membership.

Mohel—a person, sometimes a rabbi, cantor, or physician, who has specialized training in the rituals, laws and procedures surrounding ritual circumcision. Specifics, including who is (and is not) a *mohel* for our community and, therefore, eligible for support can be referred to the Rabbi, as the *Mara D'atra* (the local authority in Jewish law).

POLICY OBJECTIVES

The objective of this policy is to outline the support the Shaar Shalom provides to members who are seeking *B'rit Milah*.

POLICY APPLICATION

Eligibility

Shaar Shalom members in good standing the year of the *B'rit Milah*.

Support Provided

Logistical

- The Shaar will prepare a *B'rit Milah* package –the '*Bris-kit*'—with the names and contact information of recommended *mohalim*, along with information about the process and tips on how to proceed.
- Primary support for the family will be provided by the Rabbi.

Financial

- The Shaar will underwrite the services of the *mohel*, up to a maximum of \$700.¹
- The financial support provided is only applicable to the services of the *mohel* for the performance of the *bris* and does not include any portion of any travel expenses including but not limited to airfare, hotel accommodation, or meals if required.
- The financial support will be paid directly by the Shaar Shalom to the *mohel*.

POLICY MONITORING

- The Chair of the Membership Committee is responsible to track the number of *B'ritot Milah* and its associated costs.
- The Chair of the Membership Committee is responsible to track the number of new members and resignations that are related to accessing this policy.
- Any member of the synagogue may report concerns with this policy to the Chair of the Membership Committee.
- The Chair of the Membership Committee will prepare a report for the Board of Directors every two years on the use of this policy, its associated costs, and any revisions that the Chair recommends.

¹ The Shaar Shalom encourages the use of a *mohel* for the performance of the *B'rit Milah*. Only in exceptional circumstances where it is not possible to use the services of a *mohel* will this policy apply to the services of a practitioner who is not a *mohel* as a last resort.