

# REDEMPTION OF FIRST-BORN SON (PIDYON HABEIN)

## INTRODUCTION TO PIDYON HABEIN

### Introduction to Pidyon HaBein

A Jewish mother's first-born male child must be “redeemed” by giving money to a cohen if the below criteria apply. Pidyon ha'bein is a mitzva for the father of the boy. Anyone may do the actual redemption (including a woman) as long as the father appoints him or her as his emissary to do so.

**NOTE** If the father has not done the pidyon, the boy redeems himself when he reaches 13 years old.

## THREE CRITERIA FOR PIDYON HABEIN

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There are three criteria for Pidyon HaBein:

1. First child born of a mother must be male.

**NOTE** If a woman miscarries a fetus that has already developed limbs, any male child born after that is not considered a first-born male (bechor) and no pidyon is done.

2. Boy must not have been born by caesarean section.

**NOTE** A boy who was born normally after his brother was born via caesarean section is NOT a bechor.

3. Mother may not be the daughter of a cohen or levi (priestly family or assistants) and the father may not be a cohen or levi.

## HOW TO DO PIDYON HABEIN

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To do Pidyon Ha'Bein:

- Pidyon ha'bein is done at least 30 days after the boy was born.
- The boy's father gives six genuine American silver dollars to any cohen. If there is no father, consult a rabbi.
- The boy's father says the blessing al pidyon ha'bein and she'hecheyanu.

**NOTE** If the boy redeems himself, consult a rabbi about the blessing.