

# CHANUKA: CANDLES: WHO SHOULD LIGHT

## Chanuka: Candles: Who May Light

Anyone in the household who has reached *bar* or *bat mitzva* age can light Chanuka candles, thereby fulfilling the *halachic* requirement that one candle per household per night must be lit.

## Chanuka: Candles: Light for Yourself

Light Chanuka candles for yourself, even if there are no other people around. If there are other people asleep in the house who have not fulfilled the *mitzva* of lighting Chanuka candles, you should wake them so they can see the candles. **Do not wake children below gil chinuch.**

## Chanuka: Candles: Obligation for Women To Light

Women, like men, are required to light Chanuka candles or have them lit for them.

**NOTE** It was not traditionally customary for women and girls to light when men were present. The custom is that in a house in which the husband lights Chanuka candles, the wife does not also light. However, a wife is required to light if her husband is not present, and girls (above 12 years old) are required to light if no men are present.

## Chanuka: Candles: Wife May Light for Husband

A wife may light Chanuka candles for her husband if he is not home.

**NOTE** If your wife lit for you and you return late at night, you do not need to light for yourself.