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

Three Criteria for Pidyon HaBein

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

How To Do Pidyon HaBein

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.

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