

Welcome to the Beth Israel Congregation of Waterville Mikvah

Please review the following guidelines surrounding the use of the mikvah.

1. Privacy

- a. Each client will be paired with a mikvah guide and/or chaperone who will help them through the entire immersion experience, whatever the reason for immersion may be.
- b. Each mikvah guide will be trained per Mikvah Guide Brit.
- c. During the preparation phase of immersion, the client will be in a private room and will notify the mikvah guide when they are ready for immersion.
- d. The client and the mikvah guide will have a conversation before immersion about expectations and comfort levels of privacy during the immersion (whether they'll use a witness, whether they'd like the mikvah guide to hold up a towel, whether they'd like the guide to check for *chatzitzot* [barriers]...etc)
- e. If one is immersing in the mikvah for the purpose of conversion or *taharat hamishpacha*, it is traditionally required by *halacha* (Jewish law) that the immersion be attended by a witness to ensure that the person has immersed fully. A conversation should be had with the sponsoring rabbi and mikvah guide to determine who, if anyone at all, will serve as the witness for this immersion.
- f. If one is immersing in the mikvah for other transitional rituals, it is completely up to them if they would like to have a witness in the room and they should be sure to have a conversation with the mikvah guide and/or chaperone beforehand.

2. Security/Safety

- a. The doors to the mikvah must *always* stay locked when the mikvah is not in use. The bathrooms and beit din/family room will remain open and available for use during non-mikvah-related Beth Israel events.
- b. All children under the age of 18 must be supervised when using the mikvah.
- c. If children under the age of 12 choose to immerse, a parent or guardian must give consent.

3. Logistics/Cleanliness/Operations

- a. All mikvah use should be coordinated through the Executive Director of Beth Israel Congregation. Regardless of who your sponsoring rabbi is and what your affiliation to the mikvah is, all use must be approved by the Executive Director of Beth Israel.
- b. All mikvah maintenance is the responsibility of the Executive Director of Beth Israel Congregation.
- c. All clients must bring their own towels and toiletries.
- d. All clients will follow the posted directions when using the mikvah.

I have reviewed and agree to the following.

Client Signature

Date