

## Stein Family Mikveh Guidelines

As a Reform congregation, we believe in inclusivity for Jews and non-Jews to participate in our community's life. The Mikveh is one of many rituals we hope to use in order to reach out to the entire Jewish community. In this spirit of inclusivity we also have certain guidelines we would like to initiate from the outset in order to maintain the sanctity of the Mikveh and the integrity of Jewish ritual.

The Mikveh is a holy space and can only be used under the supervision of an attending ordained rabbi or cantor, and/or a Mikveh attendant who will be employed by Congregation Beth Israel. Once in the Mikveh itself, please defer to the Mikveh attendant who will lead your participants in a brief tour and help to prepare them for their immersion. Male Mikveh participants can only be immersed with a male rabbi overseeing their immersion and female participants will only be immersed with a female (rabbi and/or Mikveh attendant) in the immersion room.

- If the Mikveh is going to be used for the purpose of conversion to Judaism, a duly constituted Beit Din is mandatory before immersion. We define a duly constituted Beit Din as one which has been certified and approved by the clergy of Congregation Beth Israel.
- Women who are using the Mikveh for the purposes of *Nida* should be familiar with the laws concerning appropriate times to use the Mikveh as found in *Yoreh Dea*. All other women who will be using the Mikveh should be made aware of when it is and is not permissible to use the Mikveh for all other purposes by their rabbi.
- The Mikveh can primarily be used for the following purposes:
  - Conversion
  - Brides and grooms before a wedding
  - Before conceiving a baby
  - Before all Holy Days
  - Before Shabbat
  - During the month of Elul
  - Before becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah
  - Before rabbinic ordination
  - Before traveling to Israel
  - Before/on a special birthday
  - After recovery from a physical, mental or emotional trauma
    - This may include after a loss, miscarriage, severe illness, surgery, chemotherapy or incidents of physical or sexual abuse
  - Life transitions
  - Divorce
  - Anniversary of conversion to Judaism
  - After giving birth (in keeping with the rules of *Nida*)
  - *Nida*