

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.