

OVS Divorced Parents Policy for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

The celebration of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah should bring a family together to celebrate their Jewish commitment and continuity. It's important to:

- Stay focused on the child and the real meaning of the event, providing support, reassurance, and guidance throughout the process.
- Listen and be willing to compromise with each other. Hosting a party is a personal choice and there are many ways to celebrate the occasion.

When the parents of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child are divorced or going through divorce, parents and stepparents should participate equally in the planning and celebration.

- All written and oral communication between OVS and the family of the bar/bat mitzvah will be shared with both legal parents of the child. OVS will communicate in writing with both legal parents regarding all aspects of the training and the service.
- Inform the Rabbi of the child's visitation schedule. Have copies of the Torah portions and recordings at both houses so the child can study at both homes.
- When possible, share the honors for Friday night and Shabbat morning.
- Share expenses as evenly as possible.

If parents cannot work together to plan the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, the following policies apply:

- OVS will notify both parents-of-record of all Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates and information. This policy applies even if one parent is not a member of the congregation.
- If both parents are OVS members in good standing, they shall have equal authority to request dates for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. No ceremony will be scheduled until the parents can agree or there is a court order determining a date.
- If both parents are OVS members in good standing as of the Monday before the ceremony, each parent will be entitled to assign 50% of the honors for the service. If they cannot agree on the particulars of this distribution, the Rabbi will assign the aliyot, giving priority to parents, step/adoptive parents, grandparents and siblings.

If one parent is an OVS member in good standing as of the Monday before the ceremony:

- If the other parent is not a member of any congregation, the honors shall be distributed in a $\frac{1}{4}$ / $\frac{3}{4}$ ratio, with the OVS member getting $\frac{3}{4}$ of the honors.
- If the other parent is a member in good standing of another congregation for at least one year prior to the bar/bat mitzvah, the honors shall be distributed in a $\frac{1}{2}$ / $\frac{1}{2}$ ratio.
- If the parents cannot agree on the distribution of honors by the Monday before the bar/bat mitzvah, the Rabbi shall assign the honors in a $\frac{1}{2}$ / $\frac{1}{2}$ ratio.

It is understood that the parents of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah may have different abilities to contribute financially to the celebrations of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah weekend. OVS requires payment in full 10 days prior of the event. If both parents are OVS members, then they will each be charged 50% of the total cost of the weekend. If only one parent is an OVS member, then that parent is fully responsible for the expenses of the weekend. Any deviation from this policy must be agreed to in writing prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.