Shabbat: Candles: Lighting with Delay until Sunset

Under extenuating circumstances, women may make a “condition” by saying “I am lighting *Shabbat* candles but not starting *Shabbat* until sunset” to delay *Shabbat* until sunset, when it will begin anyway.

NOTE Women should not routinely start *Shabbat* at sunset since the proper time for women to begin *Shabbat* is at candle lighting (typically 18 minutes before sunset).

REASON An opinion exists that *Shabbat* actually begins at 18 minutes before sunset; that is the origin of this time for women to begin *Shabbat*.

© Copyright 2026 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com