

BEIT DIN COMPARISON GRID

NAME	BEIT DIN OF ELIZABETH NEW JERSEY	BETH DIN OF AGUDATH HARABONIM	BETH DIN OF AGUDATH HARABONIM (BROOKLYN BRANCH)	BETH DIN OF AMERICA	BEIT DIN L'INYANEI AGUNOT	BAIS DIN OF IGUD HARABONIM OF AMERICA
LOCATION OF BEIT DIN	330 Elmora Avenue Elizabeth, NJ 07208 <i>Meets in the JEC school building</i>	235 East Broadway New York, NY 10002 <i>Meets in the Agudath HaRabonim Central Office</i>	Young Israel of Avenue K 1240 East 29th Street Brooklyn, NY 11230 <i>Meets in synagogue or in R' Ralbag's home office</i>	305 Seventh Avenue 12 th Floor New York, NY 10001 <i>Meets in office building</i>	Law Offices of Michael Rackman, Esq. 270 Madison Ave, 8 th Floor New York, NY 10016 <i>Meets in the law office</i>	Young Israel of Kensington 305 Church Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11218 <i>Meets in the synagogue or the Igud HaRabonim Central Office</i>
CONTACT INFORMATION	PHONE: 908-352-9586 CELL: R' Elazar Teitz 908-403-9841 R' Eliyahu Teitz 646-522-5592	PHONE: 212-964-6337	PHONE: 718-258-5596 FAX: 718-252-8418 EMAIL: Ralbaga@aol.com	PHONE: 212-807-9042 FAX: 212-807-9183 EMAIL: menahel@bethdin.org WEBSITE: www.bethdin.org	HOTLINE: 718-434-6246 EMAIL: agunah@agunahinternational.com WEBSITE: www.agunahinternational.com MAILING ADDRESS: Agunah International 498 East 18 th Street Brooklyn, NY 11226	PHONE: 718-851-6203 718-871-4543 FAX: 718-871-7104
ROSH (AV) BEIT DIN	Rabbi Elazar M. Teitz	Rabbi Hersh M. Ginsberg	Rabbi Aryeh Ralbag	Rabbi Gedalia Schwartz	Rabbi Emanuel Rackman	Rabbi Herschel Kurzrock
DAYYANIM	Elazar M. Teitz Eliyahu Teitz Howard Jachter Other dayyanim appointed as needed	Confidential; does not reveal names	Aryeh Ralbag Chaim Kraus Elemelech Liebowitz Yisroel Belsky	Gedalia Dov Schwartz, Rosh, Mordechai Willig, Ass't. Av Beit Din, Yonah Reiss, Menahel, Michael Broyde, Chaver Beit Din, Shlomo Wahrman, Herschel Schachter, Moshe Dovid Tendler, Aaron Levine, Yosef Blau, Steven Pruzansky, Ronald Warburg, Daniel Rapp, Joseph Karasick, Julius Berman, Kenneth Auman, Michael Hecht, Yossi Prager, Adam Berner, Richard Stone, David Pelcovitz, Yaakov Lichter (Dayyanim rotate; not all give equal time)	Emanuel Rackman Haim Toledano Asher Murciano Eugene Cohen	Rabbis Steinberg, Brissman, Epstein, Singer, Elbaz, Lustig, Kurzrock, Belsky, and Hecht (Some dayyanim sit more often than others)
ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS	YESHIVA: Jewish Educational Center of Elizabeth, NJ	NATIONAL RABBINIC ORGANIZATION: Union of Orthodox Rabbis of U.S. and Canada, Agudath HaRabonim	NATIONAL RABBINIC ORGANIZATION: Union of Orthodox Rabbis of U.S. and Canada, Agudath HaRabonim (Brooklyn based, affiliated with New York Branch)	NATIONAL RABBINIC ORGANIZATION: Rabbinical Council of America	NATIONAL AGUNAH ORGANIZATION: Agunah International Inc.	NATIONAL RABBINIC ORGANIZATION: Rabbinical Alliance of America, Igud HaRabonim

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CASES PER YEAR (contested and uncontested)	100-150 per year Mostly uncontested	100 per year 50% are uncontested Few unresolved	300 per year 33-50% contested 18% unresolved	300 per year 75-80% uncontested 15-20% contested 3% unresolved	20 per year All are contested Voids marriages when there are grounds for <i>hafka'at kiddushin</i>	50-75 per year 50% contested 10% unresolved
CONFIDENTIALITY (unless information is about a crime that has been or will be committed)*	Guaranteed	Guaranteed	Guaranteed	Guaranteed	Guaranteed	At discretion of <i>beit din</i>
LANGUAGES**	English Documents are not translated but are explained	English Yiddish Hebrew Documents translated	English Yiddish Hebrew Other languages if necessary Documents translated	English All documents translated	English. All <i>dayyanim</i> are fluent in Hebrew. Interpreters found for other languages. All documents are in English and Hebrew	Language of litigant Documents translated Interpreters found for all languages
SHTAR BERURIN (binding arbitration agreement)	Not required in uncontested cases Required in litigated cases	YES	Not required, but very strongly preferred	Not required in uncontested <i>gittin</i> Required in litigated cases	NO	Not required in uncontested cases Required in litigated cases
HAZMANOT (summons to appear before beit din)	After first call by a <i>dayyan</i> , <i>hazmanot</i> issued every 7-10 days Automatic by computer	<i>Hazmanot</i> only issued if requested. Once requested <i>hazmanot</i> issued every 10 days. If matter is urgent the interval between <i>hazmanot</i> may be shorter.	First issued immediately After the first, <i>hazmanot</i> are sent two weeks apart.	<i>Hazmanot</i> are issued automatically, need not request. 3 are sent over a 30-day period	Endeavors to secure appearance and cooperation of husband. Generally, husband has already refused <i>hazmanot</i> of other batei din. Seeks evidence for legitimate application of <i>hafka'at kiddushin</i>	Sent one week apart
SERUVIM (contempt of court citation) ***	Very few issued <i>Seruv</i> may be issued two weeks after third <i>hazmanah</i>	Will issue <i>seruvim</i> , but try to avoid it	Not automatic; <i>seruvim</i> issued after a month or two	Will issue <i>seruvim</i> , when deemed appropriate by Av <i>Beit Din</i>	Not applicable	No information as to when issued; sent as personal letter on <i>beit din</i> stationary
TIMING OF WRITING/DELIVERY OF GET	Encourage writing/delivery of <i>Get</i> as soon as it is clear reconciliation is not possible. Rabbi Teitz is <i>shaliach</i> . <i>Pturim</i> released only after civil divorce is final	<i>Get</i> is not written early in divorce process	Sometimes will write <i>Get</i> early in divorce process and hold at <i>beit din</i> , for release when rest of issues are settled	Encourage writing of <i>Get</i> and delivery to wife as soon as it is clear no reconciliation is possible; <i>pturim</i> released when civil divorce is final	Not applicable	Does not write <i>Get</i> early in divorce process and hold it at <i>beit din</i> , because it can become invalid
APPROACH TO BRINGING A WOMAN FOR SUPPORT	May bring someone. Must notify <i>beit din</i> if bringing someone	Will allow it	Will allow it.	Women are advised to bring someone, or the <i>beit din</i> will provide female support	May bring someone. Agunah Int'l workers also provide support	May bring someone, or the <i>beit din</i> will provide female support
TOANIM (Jewish law advocates)	Discouraged	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
CIVIL ATTORNEYS	May attend Can speak to rabbis	May attend	May attend	May attend Can speak to rabbis	May attend Also contacted in pre- <i>beit din</i> counseling sessions as needed	May attend

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ATTITUDE TOWARD JEWISH PRE-NUPTIAL AGREEMENT	Recognized and encouraged (Prefers the RCA pre-nup)	Not recognized	Recognized	Recognized and strongly encouraged	Recognized	No information
ATTITUDE TOWARD CIVIL LITIGATION OF FINANCIAL MATTERS	Parties are encouraged to settle monetary matters in <i>beit din</i> , but may go to civil court if both parties agree	Prohibited <i>Beit din</i> decides	Advises not to go but <i>beit din</i> does not prohibit. Encourages <i>beit din</i> resolution to all issues, including finances	Prefers <i>beit din</i> resolve all issues, including finances	Not applicable	Parties are obligated to settle finances in a <i>beit din</i> ; if they refuse the <i>beit din</i> will still handle the <i>Get</i> . When <i>beit din</i> decides finances, takes into account NY State guidelines
KETUBBAH MONEY	Sometimes will collect. Feel New Jersey equitable distribution law more favorable so generally applies it	Yes will collect, if wife demands it. Approximately \$5,000 according to Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (based on current value of silver)	Yes, tries to collect. \$10,000 for first marriage \$5,000 for second marriage	<i>Beit din</i> considers a variety of factors to determine monetary settlement. Will evaluate worth of <i>ketubbah</i> if party(ies) request	Not applicable	Yes, collects. Part of monetary consideration of overall settlement
ATTITUDE TOWARD CIVIL LITIGATION OF CUSTODY	Prefers civil court decide, but <i>beit din</i> will decide if both parties wish and a <i>shtar berurin</i> is signed	Prohibited <i>Beit din</i> decides, and consults "experts" when necessary	Advises not to go but does not prohibit. Urges use of <i>beit din</i> to resolve all issues, including child custody. When deciding custody consults with "experts"	Employs "best interests of child" standard. Sometimes, if parties elect, will decide custody, and consults with experts	Not applicable	May settle child custody in civil court or in <i>beit din</i> - it is up to the couple. When <i>beit din</i> decides takes NY law into account, and consults with "experts"
RECOGNITION OF BEIT DIN BY ISRAELI RABBANUT	YES	YES	YES	Yes Works with <i>batei din</i> in other countries	No Only by individual Rabbis	YES
RECORDS OF DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS	Drafts only. Deliberations are not recorded, but <i>beit din</i> may have notes. Also keeps records of Rabbi Spitz's decisions	Decision (<i>psak</i>) written down with notes. Rabbi Ginsberg has access	Deliberations and decisions written down; only Rabbis Ginsberg and Ralbag have access	Deliberations taped, decisions written	Sessions tape recorded, computerized and written records are kept. Decisions written and signed by <i>dayyanim</i>	Yes Both parties have access after names are erased (to prevent reuse by another party)
LOCATION OF RECORDS	File cabinet at <i>beit din</i>	On file in Manhattan office of Agudath HaRabonim	On file in Manhattan office of Agudath HaRabonim, copies at Rabbi Ralbag's home	<i>Beit din</i> office or storage, director has access	<i>Dayyanim</i> and litigants have access to records. <i>Ptur</i> is in the office of Agunah International Inc.	On file in office of Igud HaRabonim – Rabbinical Alliance of America
COMPUTERIZATION OF RECORDS	In process	NO	NO	Yes, in process; records computerized going back 5 years, may not go back farther	Yes, except <i>pturim</i> which are in hard copy only	NO

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FEES	Litigants pay <i>dayyanim</i> directly. Simple <i>Get</i> \$400-\$500 plus extras if applicable. Prefer litigants split fees but litigants decide. Withhold <i>ptur</i> if fees not paid. Adjustments based on need	Each party pays the <i>beit din</i> \$50/hour per <i>dayyan</i> . <i>Beit din</i> then pays the <i>dayyanim</i> per case. Parties notified about fees prior to litigation. Adjustments based on need	<i>Get</i> : \$400 and up. <i>Hazmanot</i> . \$36 for first one, up to \$1,000 for a <i>seruv</i> . Litigants pay <i>dayyanim</i> directly. Adjustments based on need	<i>Get</i> proceeding itself \$500 paid to <i>beit din</i> . If <i>shlichut</i> , (delivered by messenger) - \$650. Litigation \$150-\$225 per hour depending on number of <i>dayyanim</i> (<i>dayyanim</i> receive payment from the <i>beit din</i> based on time worked) Adjustments based on need	No fees	<i>Get</i> \$300/hour for the hearing. Each litigant pays half. Adjustments based on need
QUALIFICATIONS OF DAYYANIM	English speaking, "like minded," not clear what level of secular education is required	No secular education required; when necessary consult "experts"	<i>Smicha</i> Secular education not required	Based on expertise. Most but not all have <i>Smicha</i> . All are college educated. Some rabbis are lawyers, other <i>dayyanim</i> are learned lawyers but do not have <i>smicha</i>	All have <i>Smicha</i> All have university degrees.	No information
RULES GOVERNING RELATIONSHIP OF DAYYANIM TO LITIGANTS	<i>Dayyanim</i> often know parties; inform parties if they know only one side and recuse themselves if objection raised	If <i>dayyan</i> knows parties or families of parties recuses himself	If personally acquainted with litigants or family member, <i>dayyan</i> recuses himself	Discloses any association <i>dayyan</i> may have with a party; if either party is uncomfortable <i>dayyan</i> recuses himself	Discloses association with one party to other party	If related to litigants, <i>dayyan</i> recuses himself
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS					Dedicated to applying <i>halakhic</i> solutions after all efforts including <i>seruvim</i> and demonstrations have failed to convince husband to issue a <i>Get</i>	

*Note: We advise all litigants to be cautious about revealing confidential information to members of the *beit din*.

** Note: No document should be signed without obtaining an accurate translation.

*** Note: Community rabbis are generally not notified about *seruv*.