

## JOFA Beit Din Comparison Grid

NAME	<i>BEIT DIN OF ELIZABETH NEW JERSEY</i>	<i>BETH DIN OF AGUDATH HARABONIM</i>	<i>BETH DIN OF AGUDATH HARABONIM (BROOKLYN BRANCH)</i>	<i>BETH DIN OF AMERICA</i>	<i>BEIT DIN L'INYANEI AGUNOT</i>	<i>BAIS DIN OF IGUD HARABONIM OF AMERICA</i>
<b>LOCATION WHERE BEIT DIN MEETS</b>	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 <sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10001 <i>Meets in office building</i>	Law Offices of Michael Rackman, Esq. 270 Madison Ave, 8 <sup>th</sup> 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>
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	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 <sup>th</sup> Street Brooklyn, NY 11226	PHONE: 718-851-6203 718-871-4543  FAX: 718-871-7104
<b>ROSH (AV) BEIT DIN</b>	Rabbi Elazar M. Teitz	Rabbi Hersh M. Ginsberg	Rabbi Aryeh Ralbag	Rabbi Gedalia Schwartz	Rabbi Emanuel Rackman	Rabbi Herschel Kurzrock
<b>DAYYANIM</b>	Elazar M. Teitz Eliyahu Teitz Howard Jachter Others as needed	Confidential; do not reveal names	Aryeh Ralbag Chaim Kraus Elemelech Liebowitz Yisroel Belsky	Gedalia Dov Schwartz, <i>Rosh</i> , Mordechai Willig, <i>Ass't. Av Beit Din</i> , Yonah Reiss, <i>Menahel</i> , Michael Broyde, <i>Chaver Beit Din</i> , 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 ( <i>Dayyanim</i> rotate; not all give equal time)	Emanuel Rackman Haim Toledano Asher Murciano Eugene Cohen	Steinberg Brissman Epstein Singer Elbaz Lustig Kurzrock Belsky Hecht (Some sit more than others)
<b>ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS</b>	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
<b>CASES PER YEAR (contested and uncontested)</b>	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

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CONFIDENTIALITY GARUNTEED (unless criminal information)*	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	At discretion of <i>beit din</i>
LANGUAGE**	English Documents are not translated but are explained	English Yiddish Hebrew Documents translated	English Yiddish Hebrew Others 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
REQUIRE SHTAR BERURIN (binding arbitration agreement)	No for uncontested cases Yes for litigated cases	YES	No, but very strongly preferred	No for uncontested <i>gittin</i> Yes for litigated cases	No	No for uncontested cases Yes for litigated cases
TIMING OF HAZMANOT (summons to appear before <i>beit din</i> )	After first call by a <i>dayyan</i> , every 7-10 days Automatic by computer	<i>Hazmanot</i> only issued if requested. Once requested every 10 days, may be shorter interval if urgent	First issued immediately After the first they are sent two weeks apart.	Automatic, need not request each one be sent out. 3 over a 30-day period	Endeavors to secure appearance and cooperation of husband. Generally, husband has already refused <i>hazmanot</i> of other <i>batei din</i> . Seeks evidence for legitimate application of <i>hafka'at kiddushin</i>	Sent one week apart
ISSUE SERUVIM (contempt of court citation) ***	Very few Two weeks after third <i>hazmanah</i>	Will issue, but try to avoid it	Not automatic; issued after a month or two	Yes, when deemed appropriate by <i>Av Beit Din</i>	Not applicable	No information as to when issued; sent as personal letter on <i>beit din</i> stationery
WRITE GET EARLIER AND HOLD UNTIL CIVIL DIVORCE IS FINAL****	Encouraged Rabbi Teitz is <i>shaliach P'turim</i> released only after civil divorce is final	NO	Sometimes	Encourage writing of <i>Get</i> and delivery to wife as soon as possible; <i>p'turim</i> released when civil divorce is final	Not applicable	No, because it can become invalid
MAY BRING A WOMAN FOR SUPPORT	Yes Must notify <i>beit din</i> if bringing support	Yes Will allow it	YES	Yes Advises to bring or will provide female support	Yes Agunah Int'l workers also provide support	Yes Can bring or will provide female support
ALLOW TOANIM (Jewish law advocates)	Discouraged	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
ALLOW 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
ATTITUDE TOWARDS 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 ISSUES	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 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>beth din</i> , if they refuse the <i>beth din</i> will still handle just the get. When <i>beit din</i> decides finances, follows NY State guidelines
COLLECT KETUBBAH MONEY FOR WIFE	Sometimes Feel New Jersey equitable distribution law more favorable so generally applies it	Yes, if wife demands it Approximately \$5,000 according to Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (based on current value of silver)	Yes, tries to \$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 Part of monetary consideration of overall settlement

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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 follows NY State guidelines, and consults with "experts"
ACTION OF <i>BEIT DIN</i> RECOGNIZED BY ISRAELI RABBANUT	YES	YES	YES	Yes Works with <i>batei din</i> in other countries	No Only by individual Rabbis	YES
KEEPS RECORDS OF DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS	Yes, drafts only. Deliberations are not recorded, but may have notes. Also keeps records of Rabbi Spitz's decisions	Yes Decision ( <i>psak</i> ) written down with notes. Rabbi Ginsberg has access	Yes, deliberations and decisions written down; only Rabbis Ginsberg and Ralbag have access	Yes Deliberations taped, decisions written	Yes, 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)
RECORD LOCATION	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>P'tur</i> is in the office of Agunah International Inc.	On file in office of Igud HaRabonim – Rabbinical Alliance of America
COMPUTERIZATION	In process	NO	NO	Yes, in process; present and going back 5 years, may not go back farther	Yes, except <i>p'turim</i> which are paper documents only	NO
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>p'tur</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 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>servv</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> , ( <i>get</i> delivered by messenger) than \$650. Litigation \$150-\$225 per hour depending on number of <i>dayyanim</i> ( <i>dayyanim</i> receive fee 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
DAYYANIM QUALIFICATIONS	English speaking, "like minded," not clear if need college education	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
RELATIONSHIP TO LITIGANTS	<i>Dayyanim</i> often know parties; inform if know only one side and recuse 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, as it could be a conflict	If related to litigants, <i>dayyan</i> recuses himself
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS					Dedicated to applying <i>halakhic</i> solutions after all efforts including <i>servvim</i> and demonstrations have failed to induce 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 seeing translation.

\*\*\* Note: Community rabbi is generally not notified about *servv*.

\*\*\*\*Note: If this is done, rest of process of issuing *hazmanot* and *servv* is stopped.