



**BETH DIN of AMERICA**

בית דין דאמריקא

## STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES WITH RESPECT TO GET PROCEEDINGS AT THE BETH DIN OF AMERICA

1. The Beth Din of America is careful to treat every person with sensitivity and compassion, and tries to make the Get proceeding as smooth and as comfortable as possible for the parties.
2. The Beth Din of America provides to all parties a concise, easy-to-follow summary of the procedures relating to the giving of a Get so that the parties can be prepared for the process.
3. The Beth Din of America employs women on the Beth Din staff who are available to provide emotional and moral support to women who come to the Beth Din for a Get. The Beth Din is also supportive of women who bring friends to accompany them during the Get proceeding.
4. The Beth Din of America clearly communicates its fees for a Get procedure at the beginning of the Get process.
5. Although the fees charged by the Beth Din of America are reasonable, the Beth Din of America will subsidize and, when appropriate, even waive the fee based on financial need, and never deny a party the right to a Get based on financial difficulties.
6. The Beth Din of America does not charge a fee for the prompt issuance of hazmanos (summonses) or a Seruv against a recalcitrant spouse. A Seruv is issued in appropriate circumstances when a party refuses to appear before the Beth Din or abide by the decision of the Beth Din.
7. When desirable because of logistical and/or emotional reasons, the Beth Din of America will arrange for the husband to appoint a proxy to deliver the Get to his wife after the husband has left the Beth Din office so that the parties need not appear together.
8. The Beth Din of America does everything in its power to resolve potential Agunah situations, and will even travel to people's offices and homes when necessary in order to make sure that a Get is provided.
9. In accordance with the view of Rabbeinu Tam, the Beth Din of America believes in withholding privileges (such as shul membership, burial rites, social acceptance and business relationships, as appropriate) from husbands who are recalcitrant as a matter of Jewish law and, when appropriate, will issue a decree requiring that such privileges are withheld by the community.

10. When a husband and wife agree to come to the Beth Din to adjudicate financial (and where appropriate, custodial) matters relating to the end of their marriage, the Beth Din of America finalizes the Get at the beginning of the proceeding between the parties.

11. The Beth Din of America agrees that Heter Me'ah Rabbanim should be used only in extreme cases, such as severe and irreversible mental illness.

12. The Beth Din of America will not perform a Heter Me'ah Rabbanim without a hashlashas haGet - a Get provided for the woman and held in escrow by the Beth Din to be delivered to the woman as soon as she is prepared to accept it. The Beth Din of America will not perform a Heter Me'ah Rabbanim when the woman is prepared to accept a Get.

13. The Beth Din of America believes strongly in the continuing force today of Cherem De'Rabbeinu Gershom which prohibits polygamy. The Beth Din will not permit a man to marry or to date other women until he has delivered a Get to his wife.

14. The Beth Din of America provides a warm, dignified and private environment for the administration of the Get and scrupulously preserves the privacy of the parties.

15. The Beth Din of America attends to each couple promptly upon their arrival and generally completes the Get within a time span of one hour.

16. There will be no a priori requirements under the aegis of the Beth Din of America for issuing a Get.

17. The Beth Din of America records each Din Torah session and provides copies of the recordings to each party upon request.

18. The rules concerning "zabla" proceedings and attorney representation in the context of Dinei Torah are set forth in the Rules and Procedures of the Beth Din.

19. The Beth Din of America supports organizations which undertake to help Agunot and their children by providing them with as many services as possible.

The Beth Din of America is available to answer any questions or address any concerns that members of the community may have with respect to its procedures. We urge people to call us at (212) 807-9042, send a fax to (212) 807-9183, or e-mail us at [menahel@bethdin.org](mailto:menahel@bethdin.org).