

THE *GET* PROCEEDING

Dignified Proceeding

The Rabbinical Council of California Beth Din 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. We provide a dignified environment for the administration of the get and scrupulously preserve the privacy of the parties.

The standard get process is conducted in English, Hebrew or, if necessary, in the spoken language of the parties. If English or Hebrew is not the spoken language of both parties, please tell the Beth Din in advance, so that we can make special arrangements to ensure that the rabbis at the get procedure speak with the parties in their language.

We ask for two hours, but often finish sooner (the actual writing of the get takes about an hour). In addition, if the parties need any other special accommodations, please contact the Beth Din. For example, if it is emotionally harmful or unsafe for the parties to see each other, the husband would come in, effectuate a get, and after he has left, the wife will come and receive the get from one of our staff that was appointed as his proxy.

The Get Process

- When a husband and wife arrive at the Beth Din, they are introduced to the officiating rabbi, the scribe, and two witnesses who will sign the get and witness the proceedings. The parties are asked to present some form of formal identification, such as a driver's license or passport, in order to identify themselves to the rabbis.
- The officiating rabbi asks the parties some questions regarding which names they commonly use (since the get must accurately identify the parties). After that, the husband is asked some standard questions to ascertain that he is willingly participating in the get process, and the husband then, with guidance from the rabbi, verbally appoints the scribe to write the get and the witnesses to sign it and witness its delivery.
- The get is then written by the scribe using a feather quill. The get is 12 lines long and is written in a combination of Hebrew and Aramaic in the same script that we use for the writing of Torah scrolls. Essentially, it is a document from the husband to the wife that states that she is free to remarry.

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- The two authorized witnesses read the get and then sign their names to it.
- The wife is asked to confirm that she is willingly accepting the get. The get is then folded by the rabbi, and the husband holds the get over his wife's hands, declares that he is giving it to her for the purpose of divorce, repeating word for word as directed by the rabbi. He then places the get in his wife's hands as they are cupped together in the presence of the witnesses.
- Once the wife has received the get, she is asked to raise the get up to show that she takes possession of it. She is then asked to walk seven or eight steps with the get. The get is then returned to the Rabbis to be reread. The couple is now considered divorced under Jewish law.
- The get will be filed away at the Beth Din, and each party will be issued a certificate (the ptur) indicating that a get has been given and accepted and that each party is free to remarry.

Fees

A standard get costs approximately \$950. Additional fees may apply for special services.

The Beth Din will inform the parties of these costs prior to initiating such services.