



# BETH DIN OF AMERICA BINDING AGREEMENT

CALIFORNIA  
VERSION

This agreement consists of two pages and a notarization page. Instructions for filling out this document may be found on page 4. It is important that the instructions be carefully read and followed in completing the form.

**THIS AGREEMENT** made on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the month of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year 20 \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
**between Husband-to-Be:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**residing at:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**and Wife-to-Be:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**residing at:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The parties, who intend to be married in the near future, hereby agree as follows:**

I. Arbitration. Should a dispute arise between the parties, so that they do not live together as husband and wife, they agree to submit to binding arbitration before the Beth Din of America (currently located at 305 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1201, New York, New York 10001; [www.bethdin.org](http://www.bethdin.org)), which shall have exclusive jurisdiction to decide all issues relating to a *get* (Jewish divorce), the *ketubah* and *tena'im* (Jewish premarital agreements) entered into by the Husband-to-Be and the Wife-to-Be, any issues and obligations arising from or in connection with this Agreement (including under paragraphs II and V hereof) and any disputes relating to the enforceability, formation, conscionability, and validity of this Agreement (including any claims that all or any part of this Agreement is void or voidable) and the arbitrability of any disputes arising hereunder.

II. Obligations of the Parties.

A. Husband-to-Be acknowledges that he recites and accepts the following:

*I obligate myself to support my Wife-to-Be according to the requirements of Jewish law governing Jewish husbands. Furthermore, I hereby now (me'achshav) obligate myself, in a manner that I cannot exempt myself with any claim of asmachta (unenforceable conditional obligation) or any other claim, to pay my Wife-to-Be from the date that our domestic residence together shall cease for whatever reasons, at the rate of \$150 per day (calculated as of the date of our marriage, adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index-All Urban Consumers, as published by the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics) in lieu of my Jewish law obligation of support, as hereinabove cited and circumscribed, so long as the two of us remain married according to Jewish law, even if she has another source of income or earnings. Furthermore, I waive my halakhic rights to my wife's earnings for the period that she is entitled to the above-stipulated sum, and I recite that I shall be deemed to have repeated this waiver at the time of our wedding. I acknowledge that I have now (me'achshav) effected the above obligation by means of a kinyan (formal Jewish transaction) in an esteemed (chashuv) Beth Din as prescribed by Jewish law.*

However, this obligation shall terminate if, despite Husband-to-Be's compliance with the terms of this agreement and the decision or recommendation of the Beth Din of America, Wife-to-Be refuses to appear upon due notice before the Beth Din of America or in the event that Wife-to-Be fails to abide by the decision or recommendation of the Beth Din of America.

B. Wife-to-Be acknowledges that she recites and accepts the following:

*I hereby obligate myself to my Husband-to-Be to discharge all duties incumbent upon me in the manner of Jewish wives who care for their husbands loyally. If we do not continue domestic residence together for whatever reasons, then I now (me'achshav) obligate myself to pay my Husband-to-Be \$150 per day (calculated as of the date of our marriage, adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index-All Urban Consumers, as published by the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics) for all his domestic needs from the day we no longer continue domestic residence together, so long as the two of us remain married according to Jewish law, even if he has another source of income or earnings. Furthermore, I waive my halakhic rights to food and support for the period that he is entitled to the above-stipulated sum and I acknowledge that I shall be deemed to have repeated this waiver at the time of our wedding. I acknowledge that I have now (me'achshav) effected the above obligation by means of a kinyan (formal Jewish transaction) in an esteemed (chashuv) Beth Din as prescribed by Jewish law.*

However, this obligation shall terminate if, despite Wife-to-Be's compliance with the terms of this agreement and the decision or recommendation of the Beth Din of America, Husband-to-Be refuses to appear upon due notice before the Beth Din of America or in the event that Husband-to-Be fails to abide by the decision or recommendation of the Beth Din of America.

C. The payment obligations set forth in paragraphs II:A and II:B above shall be subject to offset by each other so long as both shall be payable and shall not otherwise be subject to offset. These support obligations under Jewish law are independent of any civil or state law obligation for spousal support, or any civil or state law imposed order for spousal support, and shall be determined only by the Beth Din of America.



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- III. Opportunity for Consultation. Each of the parties acknowledges that he or she has been given the opportunity prior to signing this Agreement to consult with his or her own rabbinic advisor and legal advisor. Each of the parties further acknowledges that he or she has been fully informed of the terms and basic effect of this Agreement as well as the rights and obligations he or she may be giving up by signing this Agreement. Each of the parties expressly waives, in connection with this Agreement, (i) any right to consult with his or her legal counsel to the extent that they have not done so and (ii) any right to disclosure of the property or financial obligations of the other party beyond any disclosures that have been provided. The obligations and conditions contained herein are executed according to all legal and halakhic requirements.
- IV. Governing Law. The decision of the Beth Din of America shall be made in accordance with Jewish law (*halakha*) or Beth Din ordered settlement in which the relative equities of the parties' claims are considered in accordance with the principles of Jewish law (*peshara krova la-din*), except as specifically provided otherwise in this Agreement.
- V. Rules, Default Judgment and Costs. The parties agree to appear in person before the Beth Din of America, at a location mutually convenient to the arbitrators and the parties, at the demand of the other party, to cooperate with the adjudication of the Beth Din of America in every way and manner, and to abide by the published Rules and Procedures of the Beth Din of America (available at [www.bethdin.org](http://www.bethdin.org)), which are in effect at the time of the arbitration. If either party fails to appear before the Beth Din of America upon reasonable notice, the Beth Din of America may issue its decision despite the defaulting party's failure to appear, and may impose costs and other penalties as legally permitted. Both parties obligate themselves to pay for the services of the Beth Din of America. Failure of either party to perform his or her obligations under this Agreement shall make that party liable for all costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by one side in order to obtain the other party's performance of the terms of this Agreement.
- VI. Jurisdiction; Enforceability. This agreement is being made in contemplation of, and shall become binding upon the occurrence of, the parties' Jewish marriage. By execution and delivery of this Agreement, each party consents, for itself and in respect of its property, to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Beth Din of America with respect to the issues set forth in paragraph I. Each of the parties agrees that he or she will not commence any action or proceeding relating to such issues in any court, rabbinical court or arbitration forum other than the Beth Din of America. This Agreement constitutes a fully enforceable arbitration agreement, and any decision issued pursuant to this Agreement shall be fully enforceable in secular court. Should any provision of this Agreement be deemed unenforceable, all other provisions shall continue to be enforceable to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law. As a matter of Jewish law, the parties agree that to effectuate this Agreement, they accept now (through the Jewish law mechanism of *kim li*) whatever minority views determined by the Beth Din of America are needed to effectuate the obligations, procedures and jurisdictional mandates contained in this Agreement.
- VII. Counterparts. This Agreement may be signed in one or more duplicates, each one of which shall be considered an original.

**In witness of all the above, the Husband-to-Be and Wife-to-Be have entered into this Agreement.**

Signature of Husband-to-Be	<input type="text"/>	Signature of Wife-to-Be	<input type="text"/>
Signature of Witness	<input type="text"/>	Signature of Witness	<input type="text"/>
Signature of Witness	<input type="text"/>	Signature of Witness	<input type="text"/>

Notarization forms appear on the next page. For further information about notarization, see the instructions.



## Notarization Forms

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

### **Acknowledgment of Husband-to-Be**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA    )  
  ) SS.  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ )

On \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, before me, \_\_\_\_\_(Name of Notary), personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ (name of Husband-to-Be), who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his authorized capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument the person executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_(Seal)

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

### **Acknowledgement of Wife-to-Be**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA    )  
  ) SS.  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ )

On \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ before me, \_\_\_\_\_(Name of Notary), personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ (name of Wife-to-Be), who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that she executed the same in his authorized capacity, and that by her signature on the instrument the person executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_(Seal)



## INSTRUCTIONS

**INTRODUCTION.** Mazal tov on your upcoming marriage! This Agreement (*Te'naim Achronim*) is intended to facilitate the timely and proper resolution of certain marital disputes. When a couple about to be married signs this Agreement, they thereby express their concern for each other's happiness, as well as their concern for all couples marrying in accordance with Jewish law. To enter into the agreement, follow these five steps:

- ➊ Read the agreement. A detailed guide explaining the provisions of the agreement is also available at [www.theprenup.org](http://www.theprenup.org), and you can also discuss the agreement with an attorney. You can also call or e-mail the Beth Din of America (212-807-9042; [info@bethdin.org](mailto:info@bethdin.org)) with any questions.
- ➋ Sign the agreement in front of witnesses and a notary. Put your initials on the bottom of page 1, and sign the agreement on the bottom of page 2.
- ➌ Have the witnesses sign in the spaces provided beneath your signatures. The same people can witness each signature and sign twice, once under the signature of the Husband-to-Be, and once under the signature of the Wife-to-Be, or four witnesses can be used, each signing once.
- ➍ Have the notary complete the notary block on page 3, sign it at the bottom, and affix his or her notary stamp. Notaries can usually be found in banks, law offices, etc.
- ➎ Husband-to-Be and Wife-to-Be should keep his or her own copy of this Agreement in a safe place. In addition, scan the signed agreement, or take a picture of it, and e-mail it to [prenup@bethdin.org](mailto:prenup@bethdin.org) or fax it to (212) 807-9183. The Beth Din of America will retain a copy of your signed agreement in its confidential files in case it is ever needed.

This Agreement should be discussed, and then signed, as far ahead of the wedding day itself as is practically feasible. While it is preferable that the *mesader kiddushin* (i.e., supervising rabbi at the wedding) take responsibility for explaining the background for, and then implementing the agreement itself, any other knowledgeable rabbi or individual, or the couple themselves, may coordinate the process. Advice of proper legal counsel on both sides is certainly encouraged.

**BINDING CIVIL COURT EFFECT.** When properly executed, this Agreement is enforceable as a binding arbitration agreement in the courts of the United States of America, as well as pursuant to Jewish law (*halakha*). The supervising rabbi should explain this to the parties. Please note that this version of the agreement does not authorize the Beth Din to decide financial matters related to division of marital property, spousal support under civil law, or child custody and visitation issues. This Agreement should only be used when the parties expect to reside in the United States upon marriage. Parties should contact the Beth Din of America to inquire about appropriate forms when they will be residing outside the United States. For those who will reside in the United States, the Beth Din will appoint the proper *dayanim* (arbitrators) to hear and resolve matters throughout the country.

**ADDITIONAL FORMS.** Some couples, for financial or other reasons, sign other prenuptial agreements. In such cases, they may find it useful or practical to sign this document and incorporate this arbitration agreement by reference into any additional agreement. Additional copies of this document and other materials can be obtained from the offices of the Beth Din of America, or by visiting [www.theprenup.org](http://www.theprenup.org).

**FURTHER INFORMATION.** Further information regarding this Agreement, or further information concerning the procedures to be followed for resolution of any matters or disputes covered by this Agreement, may be obtained from the Beth Din of America, which has disseminated this form Agreement. Background information is available at [www.theprenup.org](http://www.theprenup.org).



BETH DIN OF AMERICA  
בית דין דאמריקא

### Beth Din of America

305 Seventh Ave., Suite 1201, New York, NY 10001

Tel: (212) 807-9042 Fax: (212) 807-9183

Email: [info@bethdin.org](mailto:info@bethdin.org)

Web: [www.bethdin.org](http://www.bethdin.org)

[www.theprenup.org](http://www.theprenup.org)

**In an Emergency:** Outside of normal business hours, questions may be addressed to Rabbi Shlomo Weissmann, Director of the Beth Din of America, at (646) 483-1188.



**BETH DIN of AMERICA**

בית דין דאמריקא

This agreement was developed and is administered by the Beth Din of America, which is supported in part through the generosity of the following synagogues:

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Signatories to this document benefit from the Beth Din of America, which is the forum named to adjudicate claims arising under the agreement. Please urge your synagogue to contribute generously to the Communal Fund of the Beth Din of America if it is not already listed above.

To arrange a contribution, please contact the Beth Din of America at [info@bethdin.org](mailto:info@bethdin.org)