

Introduction

a. *Purpose Of This Guide*

i. For many, divorce is an unexpected detour in the path of life. While Judaism values family and marriage, our tradition also recognizes that some marriages reach a point where they cannot be saved. The Torah, therefore, offers a process and ceremony for ending a marriage.

ii. Divorce can at times be a difficult and painful process. ORA is here to offer you support through what can sometimes be a traumatic experience. Some resources ORA offers include support groups and peer support match-ups.

iii. The “how” of Jewish divorce is often confusing and unfamiliar, especially when it comes to the relevant religious laws involved.

iv. This guide was written for YOU—to provide information and clarity during a difficult time, and to make a stressful process easier and more transparent.

b. *How To Use This Guide*

i. This guide seeks to cover many conceivable situations, so the entire guide will not be relevant to a single reader. Please use the Table of Contents to locate the most applicable sections for you.

ii. Also, while this guide is meant to de-mystify Jewish divorce, **it is not a substitute for direct professional guidance. This guide also does not constitute legal advice.**

iii. In the resources section at the end of this guide, you will find suggestions for where you can find personalized advice.

Divorce can be a complex and overwhelming process, so we recommend taking things one step at a time. The more you understand the systems you are working in, the better able you will be to set yourself up for success and move on to a new and brighter chapter in your life. Reading through this guide is a great start.

Important: This guide is **not a substitute for legal or *halachic* advice**. Please consult a family law **attorney** for legal matters, a **rabbi or *halachic* advisor** for Jewish law questions, and ORA’s **free helpline, One Step Forward (OSF)**, for personalized support: Phone: (844) 673-5463 | Email: intake@getora.org.

Take it one step at a time. You don’t have to figure everything out today. Divorce is a process, and every step you take toward clarity and support is a win.