

RABBINICAL COURTS JURISDICTION (MARRIAGE
AND DIVORCE) LAW, 5713—1953*

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| <p>1. Matters of marriage and divorce of Jews in Israel, being nationals or residents of the State, shall be under the exclusive jurisdiction of rabbinical courts.</p> | <p>Jurisdiction in matters of marriage and divorce.</p> |
| <p>2. Marriages and divorces of Jews shall be performed in Israel in accordance with Jewish religious law.</p> | <p>Performance of marriages and divorces.</p> |
| <p>3. Where a suit for divorce between Jews has been filed in a rabbinical court, whether by the wife or by the husband, a rabbinical court shall have exclusive jurisdiction in any matter connected with such suit, including maintenance for the wife and for the children of the couple.</p> | <p>Jurisdiction in matters incidental to divorce.</p> |
| <p>4. Where a Jewish wife sues her Jewish husband or his estate for maintenance in a rabbinical court, otherwise than in connection with divorce, the plea of the defendant that a rabbinical court has no jurisdiction in the matter shall not be heard.</p> | <p>Jurisdiction in matters of maintenance.</p> |
| <p>5. Where a woman sues her deceased husband's brother for <i>chalitza</i>¹⁾ in a rabbinical court, the rabbinical court shall have exclusive jurisdiction in the matter, also as regards maintenance for the woman until the day on which <i>chalitza</i> is given.</p> | <p>Jurisdiction in matters of <i>chalitza</i>.</p> |
| <p>6. Where a rabbinical court, by final judgment, has ordered that a husband be compelled to grant his wife a letter of divorce or that a wife be compelled to accept a letter of divorce from her husband, a district court may, upon expiration of six months from the day of the making of the order, on the application of the Attorney General, compel compliance with the order by imprisonment.</p> | <p>Compelling the grant or acceptance of a letter of divorce.</p> |
| <p>7. Where a rabbinical court, by final judgment, has ordered that a man be compelled to give his brother's widow <i>chalitza</i>, a district court may, upon expiration of three months from the day of the making of the order, on application of the Attorney General, compel compliance with the order by imprisonment.</p> | <p>Compelling the giving of <i>chalitza</i>.</p> |

* Passed by the Knesset on the 15th Elul, 5713 (26th August, 1953) and published in *Sefer Ha-Chukkim* No. 134 of the 24th Elul, 5713 (4th September, 1953), p. 165; the Bill and an Explanatory Note were published in *Hatza'ot Chok* No. 163 of the 27th Iyar, 5713 (12th May, 1953), p. 186.

1) Performance of the ceremony releasing him from the duty of marrying her (Tr.)

Finality of
judgment.

8. For the purpose of sections 6 and 7, a judgment shall be regarded as final when it is no longer appealable.

Jurisdiction
by consent.

9. In matters of personal status of Jews, as specified in article 51 of the Palestine Orders in Council, 1922 to 1947, or in the Succession Ordinance, in which a rabbinical court has not exclusive jurisdiction under this Law, a rabbinical court shall have jurisdiction after all parties concerned have expressed their consent thereto.

Validity of
judgments.

10. A judgment given by a rabbinical court after the establishment of the State and before the coming into force of this Law, after the case had been heard in the presence of the litigants, and which would have been validly given had this Law been in force at the time, shall be deemed to have been validly given.

Imple-
mentation.

11. The Minister of Religious Affairs is charged with the implementation of this Law.

MOSHE SHARETT
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Acting Prime Minister

MOSHE SHAPIRA
Minister of Religious Affairs

YITZCHAK BEN-ZVI
President of the State