



A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO SIGNING THE PRENUP

The *halakhic* prenuptial agreement (The Prenup) of the Beth Din of America is an extremely effective tool in resolving the problem of *agunot*. However, the logistics of signing The Prenup may be overwhelming. Here are **five simple steps** to completing The Prenup which will take only **fifteen minutes** of your time. If you are on the Yeshiva University Campus in Washington Heights, ORA staff would be happy to arrange all aspects of The Prenup, including notarization, in our office. Please call us at 212-795-0791 or email us at prenup@getORA.org to schedule an appointment.

You will need:

- Two hard copies of The Prenup
- A black pen
- Photo Identification
- Husband and Wife
- Two witnesses
- A notary public

1. The Document: The Prenup is a four-page legal contract. The first two pages are the terms of the contract, page 3 is for signing and notarization, and page 4 is an instruction/information sheet. The colored box at the bottom of page 1 is optional: if signed, it gives authority to the *beit din* to adjudicate financial and custody disputes.
2. Signatures: Both spouses must sign The Prenup. Each spouse fills out his/her information on the top of page 1, initials on the bottom of page 1, and signs on page 3. The husband and wife do not need to sign the document simultaneously. **However, they both need to sign in the presence of two witnesses and a notary public**, as explained below.
3. Witnesses: Each spouse's signature must be witnessed by two people. The same two people can witness both signatures or up to four people may serve as witnesses (i.e. two for the wife and two for the husband). The witnesses may be male or female.
4. Notary Public:
 - a. The signing must take place in the presence of a notary public (a state official who can attest to the signing of important documents). A notary public can be found in banks or law offices. The notary public will request photo identification from the husband and wife.
 - b. In New York State, the rabbi officiating at the wedding may act in place of a notary public. However, since The Prenup is a legally binding document, it must be signed when the couple has an opportunity to read it over and accept its terms. Therefore, **we strongly discourage signing The Prenup on the wedding day** and instead encourage couples to sign The Prenup beforehand and announce from the *chuppah* that they did so.
5. Copies: We recommend that you keep two original signed copies: one for the husband and one for the wife. Additionally, a copy should be sent to the Beth Din of America by email to prenup@bethdin.org or by fax to (212) 807-9183.