

Collated Results of Ongoing On-line Evaluation by Our *Dayanim*

December 2014 – March 2016 (21 respondents total)

Are you satisfied with the following aspects of this Bet Din session?

	Yes	More or Less	No
Prior logistical support from our Bet Din staff and our officers	100.00% 21	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
The candidate's preparation	90.48% 19	9.52% 2	0.00% 0
Your own sense of presence, and your conduct as a dayan	90.48% 19	9.52% 2	0.00% 0
The other dayanim's sense of presence, and their conduct	90.48% 19	0.00% 0	9.52% 2
The suitability and appropriateness of the meeting room	100.00% 21	0.00% 0	0.00% 0

COMMENTS

It was a wonderful and very rewarding experience.

1/30/2016 11:09 PM

[The candidate] was so thoughtful and modest. I was very moved by her presence.

9/10/2015 11:51 AM

A fabulous experience!

9/2/2015 10:52 AM

This time we meet in a section of the chapel rather than in an office room. It had stain glass windows which I believe added to the atmosphere. It would be good if this can be kept on a regular basis. Rabbi X added a moving reflection on the mikveh that she read at the end.

7/26/2015 11:05 AM

This was my first experience as a Dayan. I felt honored and blessed to be able to serve as a "Spiritual Midwife" for the birthing of two new Jewish souls!

7/9/2015 1:30 PM

Sponsoring Rabbi arrived significantly later than scheduled start time of Beit Din. I also attended Rabbi X's funeral, but I did not stay for the interment in order to arrive at Beit Din on time (arrived at AJU at 2pm). As a result, candidate missed her Mikva appointment, so we had to wait for the next Mikva user to start and finish. Did not leave AJU until 5:30. Had to cancel the class I was scheduled to teach at 7:00.

6/26/2015 8:04 AM

There was some confusion about my role as the 4th rabbi. I escorted [candidate X] out as planned and stayed with her while the *dayanim* deliberated.... I waited with her just outside the door. Their deliberation was taking longer than expected so I checked in. At which point they let me know that they wanted me to participate and had just been waiting for me! They were all lovely yet this delay resulted in the need for us all to defer X's immersion until ... almost an hour later after the conclusion of her bet din. It would have been helpful to have a schedule so that one or all of us could have played timekeeper. [Rabbi Y who chaired the session] was very apologetic saying this was his fault but he could not have known. I felt responsible as well because he asked for an unexpectedly long and detailed orientation of the bet din prior to beginning. ... But X was very moved--we all were--and your level of organization David supported everyone in this process.

6/26/2015 7:15 AM

Great mix of dayanim -- one fresh out of school, one a decade into the rabbinate (me), and a *gadol* (Rabbi Dorff).

6/10/2015 4:17 PM

We did not have the Declaration of Jewish Commitment in the packet of documents. We were able to make a copy for [candidate X] to read from a copy that we had already. X's name was spelled incorrectly on the *T'vilah* document. All a good lesson for me as the sponsoring rabbi to check everything carefully before the Beit Din and mikveh.

4/12/2015 2:26 PM

The sponsoring rabbi was warm, welcoming and clearly involved and invested with her sponsorees. The Av was lovely, warm, welcoming, and insightful
Excellent rabbis!

3/27/2015 11:41 AM

The candidate X was absolutely the most heartwarming giyyur I've ever met. His journey was longer than most (16 years), but had raised him to a level of preparation and joy which I've not often experienced. Mazel Tov to his sponsoring Rabbi Y and Rabbi Z who excelled in their work. Wish we could have many more candidates this wonderful.

2/27/2015 4:52 PM

Rabbi Y didn't bring any of the materials [the coordinator] sent to him in advance. So he had to look on to [Rabbi Z]'s stuff.

2/16/2015 8:35 AM

Thank you for making everything so easy, David!

1/15/2015 9:18 AM

I was surprised that Rabbi Y had informed the family that they could sit in the room during the beit din conversation. There was some discomfort in this both by myself and by Rabbi Z, and the moments of preparation would have been more productive had we more time to discuss the candidate's preparation for the beit din conversation. Additionally, we did not feel that the candidate's parents (1 yr. old child) had fully considered the implications of raising their child Jewish more

than the interest they expressed in joining a shul. We felt that the parents would make an attempt to instill within the child a sense of Jewish identity in their home, but were uneasy by the responses of maintaining a dual religious affiliation.... We encouraged them to deepen their learning of Judaism and moved ahead with the conversion. But, the experience of the beit din was uncomfortable and I personally felt placed in a situation where I had questions about their readiness to convert their child when we discussed their commitment to build a Jewish home for him and their future children together. In short, I did not feel the sponsoring rabbi did enough to prepare the other dayanim of this questionable commitment which added to our deliberation in the moment.

12/19/2014 2:15 PM

In both cases, there were some frank questions and discussions and heart-felt dialogue amongst the dayanim. These were important learning opportunities for me, and I truly profited wisdom and collegiality of the dayanim, with whom it was a privilege to serve.

12/19/2014 9:10 AM

I'm not sure what info the candidate gets, however, she looked at the address on the letterhead and went there first. Who clarifies the location? May need to be more explicit in the future (with specific address, etc.)

12/11/2014 12:32 PM