



**TEN COMMANDMENTS
FOR PEOPLE CONSIDERING DIVORCE
IN ISRAEL**

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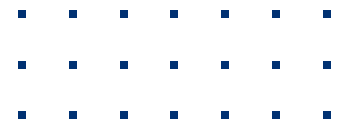
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Introduction

My name is Jay Hait. I am an American Israeli attorney with affiliated offices in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa. My office provides legal services and mediation services in the family law arena.

As a family man, I believe in the institution of marriage and in tranquility. As an attorney, I believe that each of us brings his personality to his work. What does this translate into in my every day work? As an attorney, and as a mediator, I don't believe in just "taking out the other side's eyes" in the name of the battle. I believe that it's possible to come to a separation / divorce from a position of empathy and in a joint attempt to build a future relationship that focuses on the well-being and joint responsibilities of continuing to raise children together. I believe that this can generally be done with no conflict when protecting my client's interests.

In conjunction with this belief, I also believe if the sides are unable to sit and negotiate with each other, then and only then is it justified to wage a "divorce war" with all that this encompasses - and even then - only when we have very well-defined goals - i.e. I do not believe in a scorched Earth policy just for the sake of it.

In my experience, couples that are represented by attorneys who work with them to get through the divorce process in a respectable and humane manner tend not to return to court after the divorce is over. They tend to be the couples who are able to put the divorce behind them and to move forward with their lives.

I have prepared The Ten Commandments for People Considering Divorce based on my past experience.

From the time you first think about divorce until you start the divorce process, a period of time passes in which most people unknowingly make many mistakes which can heavily influence the outcome of their divorce.

That's why it's important for you to read, learn, and put into practice, prior to moving forward towards divorce, the "Ten Commandments" which I lay out for you in this guide.

If you need more information, besides my website, I have a YouTube channel where you will find useful divorce information videos.

Additionally, you may call our office in order to arrange a call so we can start assessing your specific situation.

Wishing you the best of luck,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay Hait', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jay Hait, Adv.

The Decision

Okay. No matter how you got here, one thing is clear to you. You want out. You want to end your marriage – with all the pain that will be entailed in doing so.

It doesn't matter whether you have been married for one year or for thirty years. The important thing now is to take the appropriate steps, and to act with thought and planning rather than just via gut reaction. Whether you have decided to get divorced because of a spousal affair, abandonment, spousal abuse (verbal and/or physical) or because you just don't love your spouse anymore, it is important to get legal advice throughout the process.

It doesn't matter why you have decided to get divorced, but it does matter how you get divorced. Although my office encourages people to use our mediation services and to end their marriage through a negotiated settlement, sometimes it just doesn't work out that way. As I tell my clients, it always takes two to tango, but only one to initiate a war that both sides know where it starts but neither side knows where it ends. Despite that, when our offices go to war, we go to war.

The problem we find is that many times our clients unknowingly hurt themselves and their legal position prior to consulting with us. They hurt their positions whether their divorce is done via an all out war or via a negotiated agreement. It is for all of these people that I have prepared this report outlining the ten commandments which we advise all of our clients who are considering getting a divorce follow. There are 5 do commandments and 5 don't do commandments. Please follow them – your family will thank you for doing so in the long run.

I

Don't act on the advice of people close to you.

Your relatives, friends, and acquaintances – even if they were involved in a divorce – will not necessarily give you advice which is correct for your unique legal circumstance. Taking advice from these people can cause damage to your position vis-à-vis your spouse and all of the related divorce issues.

II

Don't take any step against your spouse before you speak to an attorney.

Divorce can result in significant legal proceedings which will be very crucial to how your future life will look. Especially in Israel where there is a dual system of jurisdiction between the secular Family Court and the religious Rabbinic Court. Therefore, it is important to get professional advice to help you direct your steps wisely and to protect and maximize your legal rights based upon clarification of your legal situation.

Remember - early legal advice at the beginning of the proceedings can save a lot of time, money, and emotional pain later.



III

If you fear domestic violence against you or against your children, contact the police.

IV

Don't allow joint account balances to increase unintentionally.

In Israel, debt in joint accounts is shared by both spouses. Don't let your spouse get the joint accounts into huge overdrafts in order to put pressure on you. Go to the bank and ensure that transactions require both spouses' signatures.

V

Don't incite the children against your spouse.

Remember that the crisis is only between you and your spouse. Children are the main victims of the divorce process. Keep them away from the conflict.



VI

Remember to maintain secrecy.

Avoid telling anybody your plans before you get legal advice and submit various legal claims in the proper court (Family or Rabbinic) which could affect the legal outcome of your divorce. Maintaining confidentiality is crucial. Remember that conversations on your home phone or cell phone may be listened to by your spouse.

VII

Collect evidence of spouse behavior.

They may be relevant for proof of: an affair or of mental or physical abuse or of possession of certain assets and for child custody.

VIII

Collect evidence of spouse's earning capacity and of assets listed in their name.

This can affect child support and division of property issues. Act swiftly and soon – things may be hidden or otherwise disappear once or prior to when the divorce has started. If necessary, you can get help from a private investigator.



IX

Make a Will to determine who inherits your property.

Just in case. Remember, unless you have a will, then while you're married, half of your assets will go to your spouse upon your death.

X

Make every effort to reach a fair agreement.

Good agreements can regulate all disputed matters quickly and efficiently. Remember, the more information you have when negotiating the better your chances for a fair deal and to protect your rights.





As an American-Israeli attorney specializing in family law, I've created "The Ten Commandments for People Considering Divorce" based on my experience. I believe in approaching divorce with empathy, focusing on children's well-being when possible, while being prepared to fight if necessary. My guide offers ten key pieces of advice, including avoiding unsolicited advice from friends and family, seeking legal counsel before acting, protecting joint finances, maintaining confidentiality, collecting evidence, and striving for fair agreements. I stress the importance of early legal advice to save time, money, and emotional pain. My commandments cover both what to do and what not to do, addressing issues like domestic violence, child custody, asset division, and making a will. I encourage efforts to reach amicable settlements when possible, but I'm ready to advocate fiercely for my clients when needed. While I acknowledge that divorce is a life-changing event, I believe following these guidelines can make the process less traumatic for all involved.

This booklet does not portend to offer any specific legal advice, which our offices only do at in person meetings and interviews with our clients.

If you have any questions or would like more information, call our offices and arrange for an appointment with me or with one of the other attorneys who work for me.

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