

# Contents:

Preface ..... xiii

Introduction ..... xv

## Hoshen Mishpat

1. Rabbinic Jurisdiction ..... 1  
2. Disabled Rabbi ..... 3  
3. Punishment of Minors ..... 4  
4. Professional Ethics ..... 5  
5. Confidential Information ..... 7  
6. Informing on Others in Criminal Activities ..... 8  
7. Insanity in Criminal Cases ..... 9  
8. Debts Versus a Gift ..... 10  
9. Demands of a Will ..... 12  
10. Silent Partners in a Medical Practice ..... 13  
11. Unknown Defect in Building Material ..... 15  
12. Judaism and the Environment ..... 17  
13. Ban on Smoking in the Synagogue ..... 19  
14. Suitable Cosmetic ..... 20  
15. Inert Pigment as a Permanent Cosmetic ..... 22  
16. When is Abortion Permitted? ..... 23  
17. Dangerous Medical Experiment ..... 27  
18. Test Tube Baby ..... 29  
19. *In Vitro* Fertilization ..... 31  
20. Genetic Engineering ..... 32  
21. Fetus Used for Experimentation ..... 34

## Yoreh Deah

22. Nazarite Vow ..... 35  
23. Historical Basis for Jewish Social Services ..... 37  
24. Priorities in Charitable Distribution ..... 39  
25. Gifts to Organizations Inimical to Reform Judaism ..... 42  
26. Children's Support of Parents ..... 44  
27. Dress Code for Religious School ..... 46  
28. *Berit Milah* ..... 48  
29. Naming an Uncircumcised Child ..... 49

30. Role of a Godfather in the Circumcision Ceremony.....	49
31. Rabbi or <i>Mohel</i> at a Moslem Circumcision.....	51
32. The Changing of a Jewish Name.....	53
33. Changing a Hebrew Name.....	54
34. Hebrew Name for a Child with One Jewish Parent .....	56
35. Adopted Children and Biological Parents.....	57
36. Priorities for an Adoption Agency.....	59
37. Adoption and Mixed Marriage.....	61
38. Patrilineal and Matrilineal Descent .....	61
39. Patrilineal Descent and Questionable Background.....	68
40. Non-Jew Raising Jewish Children.....	69
41. Status of a Child Genetically Not Jewish.....	70
42. Jewish Status and Mistaken Identity.....	71
43. Origin of the <i>Miqveh</i> for Conversion.....	73
44. The <i>Miqveh</i> and Reform Converts.....	74
45. A Swimming Pool as a <i>Miqveh</i> .....	76
46. Privacy of a Convert.....	79
47. Infant Conversion.....	80
48. Conversion of a Young Child of a First Marriage.....	81
49. Conversion of a Young Child ....:	83
50. Teenagers and <i>Gerut</i> .....	86
51. Japanese Jewish Child.....	87
52. Homosexual Convert.....	88
53. Convert with a Jewish Father.....	90
54. Convert with Christian Family.....	91
55. Conversion with Reservations.....	92
56. Two Soviet Jews of Doubtful Descent.....	92
57. Russian Immigrant Couple with Mixed Background .....	93
58. Intermarried Russian Jewish Family.....	94
59. Three Generations of Mixed Marriages.....	95
60. Problems in a Family Tree.....	96
61. A Child Raised in Two Religious Traditions.....	98
62. Return to Judaism for Baptized Girl.....	99
63. Concealing Jewish Identity.....	101
64. Return to Judaism for Apostate.....	104
65. Drifting Apostate.....	105
66. Children of "Messianic Jews".....	107
67. Burial of "Messianic Jews".....	108
68. Status of a "Completed Jew".....	109
69. A Printed <i>Sefer Torah</i> .....	112

70. Marking a <i>Torah</i> .....	115
71. Casing of a <i>Mezuzah</i> .....	117
72. Medical Use of Psychedelic Drugs.....	119
73. Mind Altering Drugs for Pleasure.....	120
74. Drugs and Mystical Experience.....	123
75. Damages for a Physician's Error.....	123
76. Pierced Ears.....	124
77. Dangers of Surgery Correcting Congenital Craniofacial Malformations.....	126
78. Banks for Human Organs.....	128
79. Selling Human Kidney for Transplant.....	132
80. Selling Human Blood for Medical Purposes.....	133
81. Huntington's Disease and Suicide.....	135
82. Jewish Reaction to Epidemics (AIDS).....	136
83. Quality of Life.....	138
84. Autopsy for Future Knowledge.....	140
85. Surgery at 96.....	142
86. Alzheimer's Disease.....	144
87. Long Delayed Funeral.....	146
88. Widower's Rights.....	147
89. Extending the Privilege of Burial from the Synagogue.....	148
90. Funeral Without Rabbi or Cantor.....	150
91. Open Casket.....	151
92. Burial of Young Child.....	152
93. Burial of a Divorced Wife.....	153
94. Burial of a Woman Twice Married.....	154
95. Burial with First or Second Husband.....	155
96. Burial of Teenager of Doubtful Descent.....	156
97. Non-Jewish Burials.....	157
98. Doubtful Lineage and Burial.....	158
99. Jewish Funeral for Non-Jewish Spouse.....	160
100. Burial of an Apostate.....	161
101. Restricting Burial in the Congregation's Cemetery.....	161
102. Burial of Ashes in a Mausoleum.....	163
103. Burial in the Garden.....	164
104. Burial at Sea.....	165
105. Burial in a Christian Cemetery.....	166
106. Burial for Miscarriages, Still-born Children and Infants ....	167
107. Burial of Human Skin.....	169
108. Burial of Old Bibles and Prayerbooks.....	169

109. Burial of a <i>Sefer Torah</i> .....	170
110. Disinterment for Legal Evidence.....	171
111. Disinterment and Reburial.....	172
112. Prayers at Reinterment.....	173
113. Responsibility for Cemeteries.....	174
114. Setting of a Tombstone.....	175
115. Fallen Gravestones.....	176
116. Names on a Tombstone.....	177
117. <i>Shema</i> as a Tombstone Inscription.....	178
118. Tombstone with Christian Marking.....	179
119. Name of the Deceased on Two Tombstones.....	180
120. <i>Shiva</i> for Delayed Funeral.....	181
121. Mourning for a Non-Jewish Spouse.....	182
122. Reciting <i>Qaddish</i> for a Convicted Criminal.....	184
123. Incest and Parental Responsibilities.....	185
124. <i>Qaddish</i> for a Pet.....	186
125. <i>Yahrzeit</i> for a Brother.....	188
126. Two <i>Yahrzeit</i> Candles.....	189
127. Leap Year <i>Yahrzeit</i> Observance.....	190
128. Moving Date of <i>Yahrzeit</i> .....	191

## **Orah Hayim**

129. Direction of Reader During Public Services.....	192
130. Pulpit Robes.....	193
131. Wearing a <i>Tallit</i> While Conducting the Friday Evening Service.....	194
132. Non-Jewish Voices in Congregational Choir.....	195
133. Abbreviating the Service.....	196
134. Video Taping in the Synagogue.....	197
135. English <i>Torah</i> Blessings.....	198
136. Blessings for <i>Meggilah</i> Reading.....	199
137. Right to Create a New Congregation.....	200
138. Rabbi's Responsibility to the Unaffiliated.....	202
139. Support for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.....	205
140. Synagogue Architecture.....	207
141. Rooms Behind a Synagogue Ark.....	210
142. Synagogue Named for Rabbi.....	211
143. Synagogue Plantings and Christian Legends.....	213

144. Naming Building After a Non-Jew.....	216
145. Memorial Gifts.....	217
146. Memorializing a Known Criminal.....	218
147. <i>Menorah</i> Decoration for a Synagogue.....	219
148. Ark and <i>Torah</i> Permanently in a Christian Church.....	220
149. An <i>Aliyah</i> to the <i>Torah</i> and Congregational Dues.....	222
150. Tickets for Admission to the <i>Yamim Noraim</i> Services.....	223
151. Synagogue Dues for a Wife.....	226
152. Congregational Membership at Age Thirteen.....	228
153. Cantillation of the <i>Torah</i> .....	230
154. Use of the <i>Torah</i> for Fund Raising.....	232
155. The Fortune Teller.....	233
156. Sunday Morning <i>Bar/Bat Mitzvahs</i> .....	234
157. <i>Bar/Bat Mitzvah</i> Certificates.....	235
158. <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> of a Convert.....	237
159. <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> During the Mourning Period.....	239
160. Non-Jewish Participation in a <i>Bar/Bat Mitzvah</i> .....	240
161. Gentiles in a Jewish Congregation.....	242
162. Congregational Membership for a Non-Jewish Spouse.....	242
163. Gentile Chairman of Confirmation Group.....	245
164. Gentile Members on Congregational Committees.....	246
165. May a Non-Jew Light the <i>Shabbat</i> Eve Candles.....	247
166. Church Window Honoring a Jew.....	249
167. Rabbi at Christian Ordination Service.....	250
168. Jewish Bridesmaid at Christian Wedding.....	253
169. Meditation Groups and Judaism.....	254
170. Fighting Discrimination.....	255
171. Lord's Prayer.....	256
172. Holiday Greetings.....	257
173. Christmas Lights and Celebration.....	258
174. Christian Decorations in a Business Office.....	261
175. Lighting the Candles and <i>Qiddush</i> - Man or Woman's Prerogative.....	263
176. Poverty Project and <i>Shabbat</i> .....	265
177. Holiday Gift Wrapping Project and <i>Shabbat</i> .....	267
178. <i>Eruv</i> .....	268
179. Diets and <i>Pesah</i> .....	269
180. Memorial Lights/Tablets on <i>Yom Kippur</i> .....	270
181. <i>Sukkah</i> as a <i>Huppah</i> .....	271
182. Decoration of the <i>Sukkah</i> With Fruits and Vegetables.....	272

183. Nature of the <i>Etrog</i> .....	273
184. <i>Torah</i> Reading for Second Day of <i>Shavuot</i> .....	276
185. <i>Hannukah</i> and a Combustible <i>Menorah</i> .....	277
186. Sequence of Lighting <i>Hannukah</i> Candles.....	278

## **Even Haezer**

187. Virginity and the <i>Ketubah</i> .....	279
188. Bride and Groom on Their Wedding Day.....	282
189. <i>Minyan</i> at Wedding Ceremony.....	283
190. Dual Wedding Ceremonies.....	284
191. A Permanent <i>Huppah</i> .....	285
192. Adultery and Marriage.....	286
193. Some Questions on Wedding Procedures.....	287
194. Jewish Wedding in a Non-Jewish Home.....	288
195. Christian Music at Jewish Wedding.....	289
196. Twenty-fifth Anniversary of a Mixed Marriage.....	290
197. Children Born through Artificial Insemination.....	291
198. Vasectomy.....	292
199. Marriage of Transsexuals.....	293
200. Lesbians and Their Children.....	296
201. Homosexual Marriage.....	297
202. Parental Obligation to Severely Retarded Child.....	298
Index.....	301