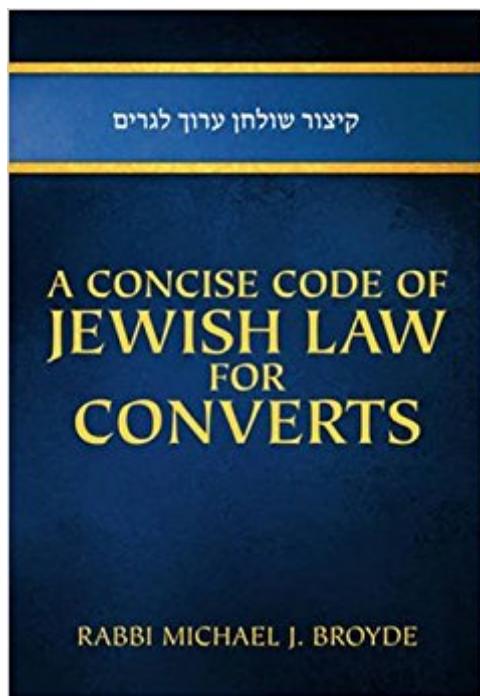


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# A Concise Code Of Jewish Law For Converts



## Synopsis

While the topic of conversion in Judaism has been extensively covered, no one has explored the particular laws related to after conversion. In *A Concise Code of Jewish Law for Converts*, Michael J. Broyde explores many topics and questions that revolve around the life of a Jewish convert. Such topics include the place of a convert in a Jewish community according to Jewish law, the treatment of a convert in respect to acceptance and discrimination, and providing affirmative incentives to converts. Containing a detailed review of every aspect of Jewish law from the convert's perspective and in relation to them, as well as supplemental essays, *A Concise Code of Jewish Law for Converts* provides knowledge and guidance on life after conversion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Michael J. Broyde is Professor of Law at Emory University School of Law and a Senior Fellow at Emory University's Center for the Study of Law and Religion. He served for many years as the Yoshev Rosh (chair) and a dayan (judge) in the SouthEast Rabbinical Court for Conversion which was part of the GPS Conversion network. He also served as a dayan in the Beth Din of America and as its director. He was the Founding Rabbi of the Young Israel in Atlanta as well, where he served for many years as the rabbi. A summer grant from Emory University School of Law supported the writing of this work, as did a grant from the Tam Institute of Jewish Studies at Emory University.

Rabbi Michael J. Broyde has collected the rulings concerning converts from various Orthodox Jewish sources and presents them to readers in a clear fashion. Conversion is not a subject

discussed in the Hebrew Bible. The laws relating to converts is rabbinical. Broyde does not focus on the process of becoming Jewish, but how converts act and how others should act toward them after they become Jewish. He emphasizes that rabbinical law placed a duty on Born-Jews to love converts, meaning treat them with great kindness. They should not be treated as converts, but as Born-Jews. No one, for example, should ever remind them that they were once non-Jews. Rabbi Broyde speaks about the convert's relationship with his non-Jewish family which should be friendly, transition issues in being a Jew who had been a non-Jew, marriage laws for a convert, certain limitations placed upon converts regarding positions of authority, and a convert's using prayers that speak of ancestral Judaism (they should read the prayers as Born-Jews do). Among much else, the rabbi states that converts may mourn the death of their non-Jewish relatives. Although a convert is in many ways a new person after converting, converts must repay loans made to them when they were non-Jews and loans they made at that time to Jews must also be repaid. The book is very friendly to converts. The rabbi notes, for example, that "converts seem to be especially knowledgeable and scrupulous about mitzva performance," that is, doing what Judaism teaches.

Many new parents, this writer included, wore out their copies of *What to Expect the First Year*. For the parents just starting out, this was their go-to guide to navigate the often turbulent their first year of parenthood. For the new convert to Judaism, once their conversion completes, they are often left in a whirlwind, with many questions, and often not a whole lot of resource to turn to. They need a similar guide to help them navigate down their newly found religious path. In *A Concise Code of Jewish Law for Converts*, (Urim Publications 978-9655242492) Rabbi Michael Broyde (professor of law at Emory University) has written a useful reference that can assist the convert in navigating the often challenging first year and beyond. In this monograph, Broyde has written an extremely helpful resource that can be used by converts to quickly find answers they need on a variety of topics. Broyde has arranged the book around the 4 sections of the Code of Jewish law, and has encapsulated pretty much every topic that is relevant to a convert. The book discusses the entire lifecycle the convert must traverse; from their relationship with their now non-Jewish family, how to deal with certain texts in prayer, marriage, business dealing and more. Broyde doesn't deal with any aspects of an actual conversion or the laws relating to how it works. Rather it deals with the laws relating to how the convert is to observe halacha once they are full members of and within a Jewish community. The book is relevant not just to a convert, but to all member of the Jewish faith. Broyde reiterates the imperative that a convert be made to feel

welcome into the overall Jewish community. For the convert, the approach Broyde take is to accept them with a kindler gentler feel. For the community as a whole, Broyde stresses the need to be lenient where feasible, albeit being loyal to halacha at all times. All with the goal of making the convert feel welcome. Broyde wrote this book to help ensure that the convert finds their proper place within the community. Nothing is more appealing to God than that the convert be welcomed into the community. To which this is a book that should be on the reading list of every member of the Jewish community. Those old, and new.

great

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