

בקשה לגיור תורה ואהבה מפלורידה

Tora V'Ahava of Florida Inc.

1317 Edgewater Drive #562, Orlando, Florida 32804, United State

Contact us- Support@tva-florida.org



Dear Applicant,

Enclosed please find the application for conversion which you requested. Once we receive your completed application form, our office will contact you to set an appointment with the Vaad Administrator. At this time, we will briefly answer some commonly asked questions about our program. Please read this letter carefully because it contains important guidelines for our program.

How Difficult Is an Orthodox Conversion?

Very. Conversion to Judaism is one of the most significant decision in your life. It requires real lifestyle changes including many basics such as eating habits and work schedule. Conversion to Judaism can strain family ties, and it will certainly alter the way you look at the world. Nevertheless, if you are willing and able to meet these demands, we will encourage you and do our best to ensure a smooth process.

What Is Expected of Me?

Gradually and at your own pace, you are expected to learn and live as a religiously observant Orthodox Jew. The Rabbis and your other teachers will help guide you in practicing what you learn, but it is up to you to show motivation and a desire to live the Judaism you are taught.

Living In an Orthodox Community.

In order for the conversion to take place, Vaad Gimel Inc. & Tora V'Ahava of Florida Inc. will require you to be connected with a known synagogue, where you can comfortably participate in traditional community life. There are no exceptions to this requirement. We do understand that moving can be difficult for financial and other reasons. We insist upon it only because we know it is so

essential for your future growth and success. Joining and being committed to a community is one of the first and most important steps we will require.

How Long Does Conversion Take?

This varies considerably, depending upon your previous background and knowledge of Judaism. Generally, you should expect the process to take between 18 to 24 months from the time we receive your application. However, some candidates meet our requirements faster, while others do take longer. In almost all cases, a slow and thoughtful process is a better experience. It is also in the best interest of the converts themselves. "Fast track" conversions are sometimes challenged, and may not be universally accepted.

Why Does Vaad Gimel Conversion Take So Long? What Is It the Beit Din Looks For?

Many applicants come to the Beit Din with a misconception. They think the court's chief function is to measure the sincerity of the would-be convert, and to assess the worthiness of the applicant to join the Jewish people. This leads to much frustration when applicants believe they have amply demonstrated their sincerity, yet the Beit Din still holds back from converting them. In fact, the Beit Din plays a very different role. Jewish law – not the Beit Din – determines who can convert. Simply put, anyone who can fully accept the demands of a committed, halachic Jewish life is a candidate for conversion. But the Rabbis of the Beit Din have to determine based on their collective knowledge and many years of experience, whether the conversion will be in the best interests of the candidate. The Beit Din has to develop confidence that the obligation of full observance is something that the candidate will be able to bear and maintain, given his or her unique situation and challenges. Our failure to do so would be irresponsible to the candidate.

To make this prediction, the Beit Din observes the growth and adjustment of the candidate over an extended period of time. How well does he/she integrate into the community? What mentors and teachers are available? How well are they used? What problems, if any, need to be addressed in the short run and the long run? A Vaad Gimel conversion requires more than learning material and finding a comfortable synagogue. It means integrating into the Orthodox Jewish community and developing a support system. This reassures all of us that the decision to convert is a positive and healthy one. It also ensures that your conversion if you complete it will be respected and accepted around the world for its thoroughness and integrity.

Relationships you undoubtedly know that Judaism does not allow or recognize intermarriage. You can still apply and be accepted in our program even if you are civilly married or have a relationship with a Jewish person. However, if you have a relationship and considering marriage with a Jewish person, you are both expected to participate in the learning process. Failure to be open with us concerning a relationship is grounds for dismissal from the Vaad Gimel program. We recognize that this sometimes poses hardships when children are involved, and we will try to assist you to find acceptable solutions where necessary. Singles are expected to maintain an appropriate lifestyle, and at the very least must physically separate for a ninety-two-day period prior to a conversion. We invite you to discuss any difficulties you may have in this regard with the Vaad Gimel staff.

Family ties & taking on a new identity.

Judaism understands and expects that you will continue to treat your family of origin with respect and dignity. Nevertheless, an Orthodox conversion will affect family ties in important ways. You will no longer be able to attend church services, even for weddings and other life cycle occasions. While you might be able to eat some foods in family homes, the kosher diet will severely restrict sharing meals. Perhaps most difficult, holidays that families celebrate together such as December 25 and Easter will be off limits. We encourage you to consider these issues and speak with your family about the changes they will surely notice. The Vaad Gimel conversion program requires you to have a "sponsoring Rabbi". This does not mean that your Rabbi is responsible for your conversion. What is important is that you have an Orthodox Rabbi who is willing to assist you by providing guidance and direction to help you become part of his/her community. The sponsoring Rabbi should be willing to periodically report to the Beit Din on your participation in the synagogue activities and classes, and give us oral or email updates prior to each Beit Din meeting with you. You may apply to our program even if you do not have a sponsoring Rabbi at this time, but this requirement will have to be met for you to advance in the program.

What Are the Costs?

Vaad Gimel Inc. works closely with Tora V'Ahava of Florida Inc. which is a non-profit organization with a salaried staff. We do our best to keep the costs of conversion down but meeting our overhead for administering this program is what enables us to provide our services. A \$ 475.00 fee is due with your completed application.

When and if the conversion takes place, there is an additional payment of \$ 475.00 which covers all other administrative charges.

The Mikvah fee for the immersion completing a conversion. \$ 75.00

Other Study Costs Applicants who advance in the program are eventually assigned a private tutor who will teach the necessary material. Any fees charged by the tutors are paid directly to them and not to Vaad Gimel Inc.

Tutors generally charge \$ 60 per study hour. The amount of study required depends greatly on previous Jewish learning. Your attendance at classes available in the community can reduce the number of tutorial sessions required, but some one-on-one study to cover our specific and focused curriculum is always required. The first step in applying for the Vaad Gimel conversion program is to read this information carefully and decide if this is what you are looking for. If you think it is, please send in your completed application. Sorry, no meetings or interviews can be granted without our office processing your fully completed application to open up your file.

When Do I Know If I Am Accepted?

The conversion process has several stages. Once we open your file, the Rabbinic Administrator will contact you to set up an initial interview and explain the program in detail. At that meeting you will receive a required reading list along with an overview of Vaad Gimel Inc. conversion

procedures. If, after completing your reading list, you decide to continue with the program, we will arrange a meeting with a panel of Rabbis (Beit Din) who will decide the terms and prerequisites for your candidacy. This meeting may give you some idea of the likelihood for success, but our agreement to do the conversion is not guaranteed until you have shown significant progress in the total program.