

FAQ's:

What is a Pruzbul?

At the end of the Shemittah year, most outstanding loans between Jews are automatically canceled. Loans that are handed over to a beis din's jurisdiction, however, are not subject to such cancellation. A Pruzbul is a document that effectively transfers all such loans to a beis din. In practice, one will then collect the loan in the usual manner, without further action needed from or with the beis din.

Who needs a Pruzbul?

Generally speaking, anyone owed money by another Jew should come to beis din and perform the Pruzbul procedure. This includes those who have accounts receivables, who have lent others money, or who are owners of a partnership or heads of a corporation that is owed money, doctors who are awaiting payment from billed patients, etc. All such debts may be subject to cancelation by Shemittah, and it is therefore advisable to perform the Pruzbul procedure.

It is customary to perform the Pruzbul procedure even if you are not aware of such outstanding debts owed to you, just to be safe.

Is this for men and women?

Yes. [A married couple can share one form (e.g., a husband can submit a form for himself and his wife).]

Do I need to specify in the prozbul the loans that are outstanding to me, or the names of the borrowers?

No. One simple prozbul form covers all of one's outstanding loans even though they are not specifically listed.

Who keeps the Pruzbul?

Generally, the lender keeps it in his records. If it is lost, it is still valid.

I heard that there is a need for the borrower to have land. Is that true?

Yes. But, even if he or she simply rents a place, or has a right to store their items somewhere, that suffices. If one believes that the person who owes them money does not have even that, then they should note that to the beis din.

Does the Pruzbul cover loans made after its writing?

No. That is why many wait until the day before Rosh Hashanah to write it.

What is the wording of the Pruzbul?

Here is an example of a Pruzbul document:

We, the undersigned, formed a duly constituted Rabbinical Court, when a creditor, [YOUR NAME...] _____ came before us and announced, "I hereby inform and turn over to you the court, R' _____, R' _____, and R' _____ all debts owed to myself, [and/or to my wife], whether these debts were incurred by contract or whether evident by written agreement or not, so that I may collect them at any time I wish (and I give a minimal amount of land to each debtor who does not own land)".

Since the above-mentioned creditor has turned these debts over to us according to instructions of our Sages of Blessed Memory, we, constituting a Rabbinical Court, have written this Pruzbul document in keeping with the custom of our Sages from the times of Hillel the Elder. We have empowered _____ so that none of the debts owed to him up until this date, whether evident by written agreement or not, will be cancelled by Shemittah.

As proof we attach our signatures today, the _____ of Elul, in the year **5782**, here in the community of Surfside Florida.

R' _____ Dayan
R' _____ Dayan
R' _____ Dayan

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to rabbi Moskowitz: Rabbi@YICBH.org.