

GPS Proposal

While RCA members are not precluded from performing conversions outside of the GPS (Geirus Policies and Standards) system, we are concerned that some rabbis may use their membership in the RCA to imply endorsement by the RCA of their conversions, and in addition, that conversion candidates may be misled by a statement of RCA affiliation to believe that such conversions are endorsed by the RCA.

Since the inception of the GPS Network of batei din in 2007, the RCA has taken the position, as articulated in the governing [GPS Protocols](#), that

[T]he RCA/BDA will endorse conversions only if they have been performed in the framework of the expanded network of Regional Batei Din le'Giyur ... Rabbis and lay people who carry out conversions outside of this framework should know that they cannot be assured of recognition by the RCA/BDA with respect to such conversions.

Furthermore, the RCA Code of Conduct reads:

A rabbi should take care, when endorsing, or making, a public statement, not to falsely claim (or create the appearance) that his endorsement or statement constitutes an endorsement by institutions or groups with which the rabbi is affiliated.

As such, in the interest of honesty and full disclosure and for the protection of conversion candidates, the RCA will henceforth require that any RCA member who performs conversions outside of the GPS Network of Batei Din not state his affiliation with the RCA on any conversion related website, written materials, or documents, or in related conversations.

Moreover, any RCA member who performs such conversions as a supervisor, officiant, administrator, or other key participant in a non-GPS beit din must include a notation (or equivalent language) on that beit din's printed or website materials that "the beit din is an independent entity and is not a member of the GPS Network of the Rabbinical Council of America".

These policies will go into effect on January 1, 2025, to give RCA members ample time to make necessary adjustments on their websites and materials.