

METRO

Jews' 'splitting' headache

By [Leonard Greene](#)

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It's good to be the king.

Under strict Jewish law, only a husband can initiate a divorce from his wife. If a woman wants to end the union, she must convince her spouse to go along — or be stuck in marital purgatory, experts said yesterday.

Under these conditions, a husband delivers to the wife what is called a “*get*” a divorce document — usually on parchment paper — that spells out the terms of the split.

Without a *get*, the woman is not free to marry again, and would still be subject to the laws of adultery.

“She’s dependent on him,” said Amy Neustein, a child-custody and divorce expert. “She cannot remarry. She cannot procreate. She has no financial means. Her ability to sustain herself is dependent on that divorce.”

In some cases, a Jewish rabbinical court can compel the husband to agree to a divorce. Those exceptions include spousal abuse and lack of financial support, several experts said.