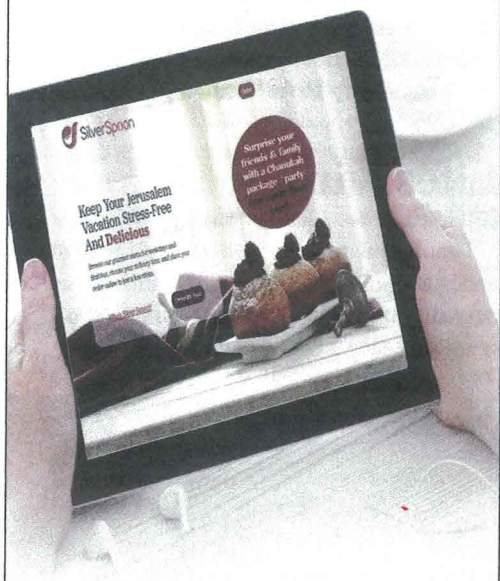



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Baruch Hashem, he has major support from many of the major *poskim* of our *dor*.

Eli is an extraordinary individual, a close *talmid* of Reb Elya Kanarek of Peekskill, and a close friend of mine. He is doing very special work to help people.

**Rabbi Yaakov Bender**

## Major Omission

[Dividing Lines / Issue 798]

Your article on prenups was excellent, and really made the point. But there was one major omission: What happens when it's the woman who is recalcitrant? Is her husband doomed to be forced to pay her money every day she refuses to accept a *get*? As in most discussions about divorce, the man is painted as the evil one, but in too many instances, that is not the case.

**Name Withheld**

## Hollow Victory

[Dividing Lines / Issue 798]

Thank you for the feature "Dividing Lines." I recently started a support group for parents who've been alienated from their children, called Broken Ties. Many of these cases stem from divorce situations such as you described.

The suffering is heartbreaking, especially for the children. Many of these couples are fighting just to "win." Are they really winning? Making your child an orphan, a *yasom* — is that worth fighting for? Is that called "winning"?

I think the prenup approach is heaven-sent. The court system is extremely corrupt. As you mentioned, the court does not want to make our decisions, so they postpone the cases until the litigant is up to \$300,000 in debt. Why is all this necessary? Why can't couples divorce nicely? Why not ensure that each child stays connected to *both* parents?

Children suffer immensely when parents are fighting! They cannot concentrate in school, work, or social life. They lose their self-esteem. They feel like losers.

If a marriage doesn't work out, divorce... but not at the expense of your child. Like a famous psychologist said, "If divorcing parents liked their children half as much as they hate their spouse, the children would be in a good place."

*Kol hakavod* for all your efforts.

**The writer can be contacted  
through Mishpacha**

## Only In the Box?

[The Kichels / Issue 788]

In my book, the Kichels are the greatest thing that ever happened to your magazine. They manage to be witty yet gentle, while poking fun at the places that deserve it.

I do have one bone to pick with the recent school acceptance mini-saga that ran the past few weeks. The implication is that all those who don't get accepted into school have been wronged because they toe the line and conform perfectly to the box that they live in. What about the many wonderful individuals who may generally toe the line in terms of *middos* and values, yet don't fit into the tightly nuanced boxes we create? Don't their kids deserve to go to school?

I once questioned my child's principal after the school had shuffled the classes and I was less than thrilled with a certain child who was in my son's class. His answer was a firm "What should I tell you? He's also one of the tribe." He explained that as a parent it was my prerogative to limit interactions outside of school if I chose to, but every child needs to be in somebody's class.

I'll qualify this by saying that this wasn't a situation of a child that would have spiritually or physically harmed other children... just someone that I considered a less than ideal influence on my son and the class as a whole.

Didn't he also deserve an education? And isn't educating him a part of educating my own son as well — both in terms of teaching values of communal responsibility and