

Striking Father or Mother

Ref: *Sefer Shoftim, Hilchot Mamrim, Chapter 5*



Not to strike one's father or mother⁶

Punishment is execution by strangulation.

Striking father or mother	Liability	Explanation
Needs witnesses and warning	✓	As with other executions
Applies to man, woman, <i>tumtum</i> , <i>androgynous</i>	✓	At majority age
Strikes but does not wound	×	Only monetary payment
Strikes after their death	×	
Lets blood of parent as for say medical reason	×	But should avoid if possible
<i>A shituki</i>	✓	Liable for mother but not father. Uncertain who is real father.
A convert	×	son not liable if strikes natural father However it is forbidden
Servant	×	son not liable No connection at all to parents
Wicked parents	×	Not liable for execution, but it is forbidden
Wicked parents do <i>teshuvah</i>	✓	son liable
Parents are <i>mesit</i> (entice to serve <i>avodah zarah</i>)	×	son not liable No pity allowed

The law varies with converts, servants or when one is forced to treat one's parents for medical reasons.

Besides cursing and striking one's parents, Torah also forbids shaming them even with words, and even with mere insinuation.

As it says 'Cursed is he who mocks his father and mother'. The court has the right to administer stripes for such behaviour. (*makat mardut*)