



## Groups and Chats

### **Facts:**

In the business world, it is very common for people to communicate through groups and chats.

There are a number of relevant points that should be clarified:

1. People often misuse groups and chats to waste time by sending and receiving nonsensical and pointless material that serves no constructive purpose. Often, this content is actual *leitzaanus* (mockery of serious matters), which leads a person astray from Torah and pure, unadulterated *emunah*. Accordingly, one who uses such groups and chats runs the risk of transgressing the prohibition of being part of a “*moshav leitzim*.”
2. Furthermore, such groups and chats often foster an atmosphere of casualness and lightheadedness. This is especially detrimental when men and women belong to the same group or chat and send each other all types of images, emojis, and the like. For this reason, using such platforms often involves the inherent risk of transgressing the prohibitions of *s'chok* and *kalos rosh* (mockery and levity) with a member of the opposite gender.

# Advice From Our Readers

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR KEEPING WORKPLACE  
CONDUCT ACCORDING TO HALACHA

Hi,

I read your recent email about how to guard one's eyes during Zoom meetings with women.

I wanted to let you and your readership know that it is actually possible to block the video of the meeting participants on virtual meeting platforms. You just need to find the right setting!

For example, on Zoom, the instructions are as follows:

Settings > Meetings & webinars > Advanced > Enable stop incoming video feature.

And while you're in a meeting, you can choose a setting to block the participant's video on other platforms, as well.

Much hatzlacha and Siyata Dishmaya,

B. J.