



Hilchos Yichud – Preface

The halachos in the upcoming emails are only intended to generate an awareness of the sensitive and broad-ranging halachos of yichud, which are very relevant in offices and workplaces. It is important to remember that **whenever an actual shailah in hilchos yichud arises one must speak to his/her own Rav and seek individualized guidance on how to proceed.**

It is especially vital to mention: One who presents a *yichud shailah* to a *Rav* should explain all of the details and technicalities that are involved in that particular situation. In this area of *halachah* every small detail can affect the *psak halachah* both *l'chumra* and *l'kula*. For example: The *halachah* regarding *yichud* when a man and woman are together may vary depending on if they simply happen to find themselves together on occasion or if they work together

regularly. Furthermore, the *halachos* of *yichud* may change depending on whether the case in question is a *shailah* of *yichud mid'Oraysa* or *mid'Rabbanan*.

Additionally, one must keep in mind that the *halachos* of *yichud* are usually much more stringent regarding a man and a woman who work together in the same office or workplace. This is because they are together regularly, and also frequently fall into the more stringent category of “*libo gas bah*” or “*isko im hanashim*” (whose exact definitions will be given in later emails).

Therefore, one must treat these issues with utmost seriousness, and not assume he/she knows the *halachah*. Every *shailah* should be brought to a *Rav* for *psak halachah* and guidance.

Note: In a few instances where the *halachah* will be different for Ashkenazim (who follow the rulings of the *Rema*) and Sefardim (who follow the rulings of the *Bais Yosef*), we have noted the difference.