



In the Workplace

3. The prohibition of *yichud* applies in every setting, even for business purposes.

If an office is set up in a way that makes it impossible not to transgress the prohibition of *yichud*, one must quit his/her job and look elsewhere for work.

(Shulchan Aruch EH 22:7; see Malbushei Mordechai – Yichud 21:3)

4. Therefore, one who is seeking a job must be extremely careful to only accept a position in a workplace that is set up appropriately, in a way that will not lead to a violation of *yichud*. Similarly, one who is already working in a position must be vigilant to ensure he/she does not transgress this prohibition. For example, when some of the coworkers leave the office and a man and woman are left alone, there is a *yichud* issue. The same applies when two coworkers are alone in an office for a meeting, or when a salesman enters a store that is already closed for the day or meets a member of the opposite gender in a secluded back office. One should not decide that any given situation is permitted without first consulting a halachic authority.