

PEACE IN THE HOME (SHALOM BAYIT)

Introduction to Shalom Bayit

Shalom bayit is a family at peace, as one unit. When leniencies in law are used to avoid intrafamily conflicts, customs and d'rabanan halachot can sometimes be overridden. But d'oraita halachot may not be violated. Consult a rabbi.

SITUATION

You want to go to minyan but your wife is overwhelmed with trying to feed several children and she asks you to help.

WHAT TO DO

You must miss minyan and help her since your wife's needs take precedence over your wish to pray with a minyan.

NOTE With shalom bayit problems between spouses, a rabbi should be consulted for details.

NOTE Once someone is married, his or her in-laws are part of his or her family and are included in shalom bayit rules.

Shalom Bayit: Non-Observant Parents and In-Laws

Ba'alei teshuva often have problems with issues of kashrut in their parents' homes. Pots, dishes, and utensils might not be kosher or toveled. Consult a rabbi. Questions of bishul akum (cooking that was done by a non-Jew) might apply to non-shomer Shabbat parents, but the custom is to be lenient.

If the parent's kitchen is known to be non-kosher, food must be prepared with care (see How To Use a Non-Kosher Kitchen). If the parents do not lie to their children, they may be trusted as to the source of food and its kosher status.

Since we may not eat from dishes or utensils that have not been toveled (immersed in a mikva), you may want to consider toveling your parents' dishes or utensils, or using disposable goods. In such cases, it is OK to use china that has not been toveled.