CHARITY/TZEDAKA: TO WHOM

Charity/Tzedaka: To Whom

Charity/*Tzedaka*: To Whom: General Rules

Charity: Family First

Give charity first to family; then to your local or nearby community. Only then may you give to remote communities, especially if the remote communities are in *Eretz Yisrael*.

Who Qualifies To Receive Charity

A person may receive charity if he or she has so little money that he or she must worry about having sufficient funds to buy a non-luxury item.

An institution is needy if it does not have enough money for basic needs (repairing buildings, maintenance, utilities...).

There is no need to donate to people or institutions if their basic needs are covered.

Charity/*Tzedaka*: To Whom: Beggars

Charity to a Jewish Beggar for Himself

If a Jewish beggar asks for money for him/herself, and you know him/her to be needy, you should at least give something, but it does not need to be much.

Charity to a Beggar for Jewish Institution

If a beggar asks for money for a Jewish institution, you do not need to give.

Charity/*Tzedaka*: Assumed Beggar at Door

If someone knocks on your door and you assume that he or she is a beggar, you do not need to answer the door.

Charity/*Tzedaka*: To Whom: *Purim*

Charity on *Purim*

On *Purim*, give money to anyone who asks.

NOTE If for an institution, you are not required to give.

Charity/*Tzedaka*: To Whom: Poor Brides/*Hachnasat Kalla*

Charity/*Tzedaka*: Poor Brides (*Hachnasat Kalla*): How Much

Hachnasat kalla means helping a poor woman pay the expenses to hold a wedding and set up a household for married life. The minimum required is enough so that she is not embarrassed. **It does not include paying for an opulent wedding.** There is not any absolute amount of money that you should give per guest and even the quality of the food, decorations, and any entertainment are dependent on the individual.

Hachnasat Kalla for Women and Men

*Hachnasat kalla*also applies to a poor *man* who needs money to pay the expenses to get married.

Charity/*Tzedaka*: To Whom: Non-Sectarian Causes

Non-Sectarian Causes and Ma'aser

You may give small amounts of money or goods to a non-sectarian charity (hospital, school, etc., that is not affiliated with any religion other than Judaism) and it will count as part of your charity (*ma'aser*). You may give large amounts of money to non-sectarian charities, but you should not count it as part of your *ma'aser*.

NOTE A small amount of money is whatever is common in your area as a minimal amount to give to a person or charity.

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