# DATING

### **Giving Information about Potential Mate**

You must tell whatever you know that is relevant about a potential date that someone is considering marrying.

NOTE Since it is for a purpose, there is no issue of lashon ha'ra.

## **Dating only People You May Marry**

You should date only people whom you may marry.

#### **EXAMPLES**

- A convert must have had a kosher conversion.
- *A <u>cohen</u>* may not date divorcees, converts, or a woman both of whose parents converted before she was born.
- The person must not be a *mamzeir* or child of *mamzeirim* (offspring of a forbidden union).

NOTE A *mamzeir* is permitted to marry another *mamzeir*.

## **Checking Jewish Lineage**

If there may be any question about the Jewish lineage of a bride-to-be or bridegroom, his or her female antecedents should be confirmed as having been Jewish (born of a Jewess OR halachically converted) back to when a *shomeret Shabbat* woman has been positively identified (or back as far as possible). As a practical matter, three or four generations may be as far back as most Jews can be traced.

Also, make sure that if there was any divorce, that the divorce was kosher, with a get.

## **Checking on Whether the Couple May Marry**

The <u>mesader kidushin</u> (organizer of the wedding ceremony) should research whether the couple is permitted to marry. This should be done well in advance of the wedding date.

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