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 cohen* 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 *mesader kidushin* (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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