PEACE

PEACEFUL WAYS (DARCHEI SHALOM)

Peaceful Ways (Darchei Shalom)

Darchei shalom is behaving in a manner that engenders harmony and good relations between Jew-to-Jew and Jew-to-non-Jew. *Darchei shalom* allows some customs, but not *halachot*, to be overridden.

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.

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