TORAH SCROLL (SEFER TORAH)

TORAH SCROLL: TOUCHING

Torah Scroll: Touching

Don't directly touch the parchment of a *Torah* scroll with your hand or other part of your body, unless there is no other way to handle the scroll.

TORAH SCROLL: STANDING

Torah Scroll: Standing

Stand when a *Torah* is being moved.

NOTE When the ark is open, you do not need to stand if the *Torah* or *Torahs* are stationary, but the custom is to stand anyway.

TORAH SCROLL: LIFTING

To Lift Up the Torah

To lift up the *Torah:*

- Grip the handles close to the plate at the top of the lower handles.
- Roll the *Torah* so that three columns are exposed and one of the seams is between the two rollers (this is a custom).
- Lever up the *Torah* (you may slide the *Torah* down the table toward yourself if that makes it easier).
- Show the *Torah* to people on your right and then on your left.

  If you want to turn in a circle, turn to counter-clockwise as seen from above.

- At the end of rolling (*glila*) closed the *Torah*, there should be a seam between the two rods on which the *Torah* is rolled (such that if it were to tear, it would likely tear at the seam and no words of *Torah* would be torn).

TORAH SCROLL (SEFER TORAH): WRITING

Torah Scroll (Sefer Torah): Priority for Writing

Writing a *Torah* scroll (*sefer Torah*) is a *mitzva* but is not a priority; there are other activities that have a higher priority for Jewish observance.

NOTE The commandment that each Jew write a *sefer Torah* is not fulfilled by paying someone else to write a few letters of the *sefer Torah* for you.

NOTE If you hire someone to write the entire *sefer Torah* for you, that fulfills your requirement.

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