WEAKENING HALACHIC OBSERVANCE OR RESPECT FOR TORAH

Lowering People's Respect for the Torah (Chilul Hashem)

You may not do any action that causes other people to lessen their observance of, or respect for, the *Torah*.

EXAMPLE When a person known to be otherwise observant of Jewish law seems to be dishonest in business.

Appearing To Not Uphold the Torah (Mar'it Ayin)

You may not do any action that may cause religious Jews to do something wrong or cause people to think that an observant Jew is doing something forbidden (*mar'it ayin*). *Mar'it ayin* is doing something that might lead people to:

- Violate a *Torah* law by thinking that an observed action that is permissible under special circumstances may be applied to other cases, or
- Think that the person doing the action is violating *Torah* law (since the observer might not know that the action is actually permissible).

EXAMPLE When a Jew wears a *yarmulke* and eats raw, *kosher* vegetables in a non-*kosher* restaurant, someone who did not know that only *kosher* food was being eaten might think that:

- All of the food in that restaurant is *kosher*, or
- The Jew was doing something forbidden (and think badly of the Jew).

If no one can see you, you may do activities that might look like violations of *rabbinic* laws. If the action is forbidden by the *Torah* (*d'oraita*), you may not even do it in private (but you may not actually violate either type of law!).

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