

Hilchos Brachos 53 (page 167)
מסימן נג סעיף כב עד סעיף כה

The Requirement to Appoint Rabbanim
How to Reckon Mandatory Contributions to the Communal Coffers
Benefits of an Official Chazan



A congregation that cannot afford to hire both a Rov [halachic expert] and a *chazan* should choose a Rov first. Even in the days when the *chazan's* recitation was needed for the congregation to fulfill its obligations of *tefilla*, hiring a Rov took precedence – even if the Rov was unqualified to serve as *chazan* (i.e. the congregation would be unable to *daven* at all). This halacha demonstrates the crucial need to hire a Rov who will lead the people in fulfilling *mitzvos* and avoiding mistakes.

(סעיף כד, ס"ק עא וביה"ל ד"ה שליה)

There are several communal obligations that any member of the community can compel the others to fund. Some of these are a shul, a *mikvah* and a Rov. The expenses for these projects are divided amongst the townspeople according to their wealth. There are other communal obligations that are paid for based on the number of members in the community (and not on their finances). The expenses that fall into this category are determined by local custom and by comparing the extent to which various sectors of the community would benefit from the service. In many instances, the wealthy would receive greater benefit from the service than the poor.



(סעיף כג, ס"ק סה ו"ס-ע; ביאורים ומוספים דרשו, 75-78)



Benefits of an official *chazan*

Among the benefits of appointing an official *chazan* is that only a qualified person will lead the *davening*. In places where there is no official *chazan* and volunteers lead the service, there is a possibility that unqualified people may serve as *chazan*. Additionally, a *chazan* who is paid for his services and shoulders the responsibility of getting the job done right will likely pay greater attention to every detail. An unofficial *chazan* must also meet the congregation's approval. Someone who forces himself on the congregation is viewed as a thief, and one should not respond *Amen* to his *berachos*.

(סעיף כב וס"ק סג; ביאורים ומוספים דרשו, 74)

Yesterday's HIGHLIGHTS

- The role of the *chazan* is to help the entire congregation fulfill their obligations. A *chazan* who hates a member of the congregation and excludes him from his *tefillos* cannot represent the rest of the congregants either. There is a discussion in the *poskim* as to whether a *ba'al koreh* is disqualified if he hates another member of the *tzibur*.
- During the year following the passing of a parent, it is common practice for an *avel* to serve as *chazan* and recite *kaddish*. Leading the congregation in *tefilla* and reciting *kaddish* is a merit for the soul of the deceased and draws it out of *gehinom*.
- If the *ba'al koreh* feels hostility towards a congregant, that person should not be

Tomorrow's TOPICS

- When is it permissible to remove a communal servant?
- Inheriting a communal position
- Disqualifying someone who went to non-Jewish court from serving as *chazan*

called to the *aliyos* of the *tochacha* of *parshios Bechukosai* or *Ki Savo*. There is a concern that the *ba'al koreh* will intend for the curses to befall his enemy, putting him in danger.

לקבלת המייל בלשון קודש, נא ליצור קשר עם דרשו: dirshu@dirshu.co.il

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