

ראש חדש אדר א' תשס"ח

Dear Member, עמו"ש

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health. It is truly an honor to be the רב of such a special קהילה of growing בני תורה. Our קהילה is a source of חיזוק to its מתפללים and has become a role model for other קהילות.

Over the years I have spoken very strongly about the dangers of the Internet, as it pertains both to ourselves and to our children. I personally have counseled a number of those in the community who have fallen into this terrible trap. Many of our מתפללים have persevered to retain an Internet-free home, which is a very special accomplishment, and this is certainly the ideal. Yet, for many that wished to do so, this was not practical; after asking a שאלה, they do have Internet access in their homes. But רבותי, we cannot ignore חז"ל's testimony that אין אפטרופוס לעריות – there is no guardian to promiscuous behavior. It is therefore imperative that we take the necessary measures to ensure that our computers are used in an appropriate manner.

After speaking to professionals, it has been determined that the following two-point program is a necessary first step in order to facilitate safe and proper use of the computer/device. This applies to one's personal desktop, laptop computer and any other device with Internet access .

1. **Computer/Device Placement** (Necessary regardless of whether computer has Internet access)
Placing the computer in a place where people walk by all the time is a great deterrent. Therefore, the computer should be placed in an open area (e.g., living room, open basement). If one needs to place a computer in a less accessible area (e.g., home office), it is necessary to keep the door open.
2. **Proper Filtering** (If computer has Internet access)
A good filtering program is necessary to efficiently block certain categories of sites from being accessed altogether. It will also prevent slips (e.g., site typing mistakes). Every device must have a TAG approved filter appropriate for that specific device.

I am therefore personally asking every member to please follow through with this program and to fill out and sign the attached form. If you do not have a computer or Internet access, please mark the respective boxes and sign. Please return the form by mailing it to my address or placing it into my שאלה box. All forms will be treated confidentially. If there are any questions or personal issues regarding this program, please contact me.

While this program is aimed at protecting ourselves, it goes without saying that our precious children should not have access to the Internet. Even non-Internet use of the computer by children should be limited. This will allow them to grow to their potential.

I would like to personally thank the members and professionals that gave of their time and effort to spearhead this project. I have no doubt that this program is the רצון ד' and will be an immense זכות for ourselves, the קהילה, and all of כלל ישראל

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Yosef Berger

Computer/Device and Internet Safety Compliance Acknowledgment

☐ I do not own a computer/smart device with Internet access (*skip the remainder of this form and sign below*).

Computer/Device Placement

☐ My computer/smart device is placed in an open area. If it needs to be placed in a less accessible area, the door will be kept open at all times the computer is in use.

Computer/Device Filter

☐ Internet is not accessed on my computer(s) (*skip the remainder of this form and sign below*).

After asking a shailah to a Rov/Rebbe, Internet is accessed on my computer(s) and I have read and complied with all the requirements listed in the following sections of the ***Internet Filtering Requirements and Guide*** document:

- ☐ Required Arrangement for Filtering Software Setup
- ☐ Unblocking Filter-Blocked Web Sites
- ☐ Viewing Internet Filtering Software Activity Logs

Print full name

Phone number

Husband's signature

Wife's signature