

Cut Off Too Soon?

Family Reflections: Abandoned / Issue 665

A recent Family Reflections mentions adult children who cut off ties from their parents. As a communal leader who too often has to deal with the awful pain of families who've been torn apart by this seemingly growing scourge, I would like to address one detail that commonly arises.

The alienating party will claim to have "*daas Torah*" on their side agreeing they should sever ties. Inevitably, that "*daas Torah*" is not identified. It may be a lie... but in many cases, I'm quite sure what happens is that the children come to the rav and say, "We cannot deal with our parents," and make some accusation. The rav listens sympathetically, and the children take that as a *haskamah* to proceed as they see fit.

Rabbanim, be aware to make sure to say both sides have to be heard and you would like to hear the other side of the story. Your sympathy will otherwise be taken as a license for the children to proceed as they wish. And in my experience, in most cases, at least some semblance of cordiality, with clear boundaries, can allow for some degree of communication that will be acceptable to both parties.

Concerned

CORRECTION

The "From My Table" in Issue 669 states that all cheese from Europe is *chalav Yisrael*. While *chalav stam* is much less common in Europe (for halachic reasons),