



When you don't know who you are talking to...

**39.** When one talks over the phone to someone they don't know and don't plan on getting to know, there is no prohibition of **greeting**. Therefore, one may greet – and inquire about the well-being of – a member of the opposite gender in the following circumstances:

- When speaking with someone who works at a government agency, utility company, etc.
- An employee who works in an office that fields calls from people they do not know and do not intend to know, such as service calls to a large management firm.

**Still, one must be vigilant that these conversations do not evolve into excessive conversations with a member of the opposite gender. The parameters of “excessive” will *iy”H* be clarified in future emails.**

*(B’tzeil Hachochmah 5:49)*

(See upcoming email regarding exceptions to this *halachah*.)