



Nichum Aveilim

44. *Nichum aveilim* (i.e., reciting “*HaMakom yenachem...*”) is permitted even if the *menachem* and the *avel* are of opposite genders. Still, one should do so while standing at a distance, such as at the doorway of the room. (Obviously, this is only permitted when everyone in the room is dressed appropriately and there is no issue of *yichud*.)

(Teshuvos V'hanhagos 3:590; Chelkas Yaakov; Be'er Moshe 2:107)

45. It is advisable that when a man must be *menachem* a woman, he should go to the home together with his wife; he will go to the men's section and she to the women's section. When they are ready to leave,

the wife should tell the female mourner that her husband wants to be *menachem*. As mentioned, the man should be *menachem* the female mourner from the doorway on the way out. Alternatively, he can daven with the men outside the women's section and be *menachem* her on the way out.

(The next email will *iy" H* discuss the *halachos* of being *menachem* a coworker.)
