



If One is in a Rush

4. If one cannot walk ahead of the woman or to the side – e.g., in a narrow hallway – and he is rushing to do a mitzvah and would lose the opportunity to do it if he waits – he should proceed behind her but look down to the ground while walking. Additionally, he should maintain an appropriate distance between them.

(Pischei Teshuvah E.H. 21:1; Chut Shani E.H. 21:8)

5. Some *poskim* hold that nowadays, when there are many more women on the streets than in previous times, one may rely on this leniency (walking while looking down) if he has an urgent need to walk, even if not for a mitzvah. *(Aruch*

Hashulchan E.H. 21:2; Apei Zutri ibid.; see Minchas Shlomo 91:23)

6. However, other *poskim* hold that this leniency can only be used for a mitzvah purpose. Therefore, one should be as stringent as possible in this matter. *(Pischei*

Teshuva E.H. 21:1; Chut Shani E.H. 21:8; see Shevet Halevi 11:285:7)