

Important Message

We approach all rabbonim and principals of Yeshivos and Bais Yaakov Schools with the heartfelt request that they encourage and inspire their congregants and students – each and every one – To recite אמן according to the halacha. That is, they should not recite an אמן חטופה a hasty amein, one that is said before the brachah has been completed. And they should not recite an אמן יתומה, an orphaned amein one that is said either too late after the brachah (אחר כדי דיבור) or after the chazzan has already begun the next brachah. See ברכות מו. regarding the severity of these two invalid responses.

Similarly, each rav should caution the chazzan not to begin any berachah until the congregation has had time to answer אמן to the previous berachah. For if he did so, he would cause the congregants to stumble over the severe transgression of אמן יתומה heaven forbid. Therefore there is a serious obligation upon the chazzan to pause between one berachah and the next so that the congregation can recite אמן in the proper manner. But if he begins one berachah immediately after the other, he creates a stumbling block for the entire congregation regarding the sin of אמן יתומה (the pertinent laws may be found in Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim 124)

The rabbonim and principals should also speak out regarding the great obligation of responding "אמן יהא שמיי רבא" with one's full strength, which the Rishonim explain as with all of one's concentration and with one's every organ, heart and soul. Moreover, the Midrashim teach that the response of "אמן יהא שמיי רבא" has the power to nullify harsh decrees and to convey every type of benefit to all of Israel.

**Committee to Encourage
The Proper Recitation of Amein**

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