

A Practical Guide to Proper Observance of the Three Weeks

Rabbi Shalom Zagelbaum

Part one: Haircuts and Shaving

- 1) Ashkenazic custom prohibits taking haircuts from sunset on the 17th of Tammuz until after the 9th of Av^א. This year that is from sunset on July 19th until dusk on August 11thב.
- 2) Many Sefardim have various differing customs regarding when to prohibit haircuts. They should consult a Rav.
- 3) It is permitted to trim one's mustache or beard that interferes with^א or gets dirty^ב while eating or drinking.
- 4) Combing is permitted even though some hair will inevitably fall out^ב.
- 5) It is customary to avoid giving haircuts even to very young children^א.
- 6) It is therefore proper for a child whose *upsherin* (the custom to give a boy his first haircut on his third birthday) falls during this time to hold it either before or after this period^ב.

Note: This column is not comprehensive; please consult your Rav for more details.

אש"ע או"ח סימן תקנ"א ס"ד בהגה"ה.
בשם סימן תקנ"ח ס"א ומ"ב ס"ק ד'.
גשם ס"יג.
דעי' רש"י מו"ק י"ח. ד"ה מזוית לזוית.
השם במ"ב ס"ק כ'.
זעי' שם ס"יד ומ"ב ס"ק פא' ושעה"צ ס"ק צא'.
זכן נראה פשוט וכן אמר לי הרב, ובפרט בזמנינו שעושין סעודה ג"כ.