

## A Practical Guide to Proper Observance of the Three Weeks

Rabbi Shalom Zagelbaum

### Part two: Nail Cutting, Music, and Marriage

- 1) Cutting nails is permitted during the three weeks. However, during the week in which the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av falls out, some authorities prohibit cutting nails unless it is for a mitzvah purpose such as in the honor of Shabbos<sup>x</sup>.
- 2) Dancing is prohibited during this time, even without music<sup>z</sup>.
- 3) One may not listen to music during this time<sup>l</sup>.
- 4) Ashkenazic custom prohibits getting married during the three weeks, even if no meal is served. A Sefardi should consult his Rav<sup>7</sup>.
- 5) One is permitted to get engaged during this time<sup>7</sup>.
- 6) Engagement parties (e.g. a *vort*, *lechayim*, etc.) are permitted until Rosh Chodesh Av (this year begins at sunset Aug. 1), but without dancing or music<sup>l</sup>.

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

---

<sup>x</sup> סימן תקנ"א מ"ב ס"ק כ' א

<sup>z</sup> מ"ב שם ס"ק טז' ב

<sup>l</sup> ע"י סימן תקנ"ח מ"ב ס"ק ב' ג

<sup>7</sup> סימן תקנ"א שו"ע ורמ"א ס"ב ומ"ב ס"ק טו' ד

שו"ע שם ומ"ב ס"ק טז' ויט' ה

שו"ע ומ"ב שם ושעה"צ ס"ק כו' א