

## Do I Have to Respond to Every Hazmana

### **Rav Yaakov Semiaticki**

#### **Question:**

I received a *hazmanah* for a *din Torah* and showed it to a *Talmid Chacham*. He told me that in his opinion there is no real case against me. Can I ignore the *hazmanah*?

#### **Answer:**

There was never a party to a *din Torah* who did not think that he was in the right. You have to keep in mind that there are two sides to every story, and this *Talmid Chacham* is only hearing one side and making his statement based on that.

A *bais din* will listen to both sides of the story before issuing their ruling, and you certainly cannot ignore a *hazmanah* and must show up to *bais din*. If there really is no case against you, *bais din* will rule accordingly; however, you must appear in *bais din*. If you ignore the *hazmanah*, despite your perceived innocence, you will be considered a “*mesarev*”, one who evades a summons to *bais din*.