

Is It Necessary to Write the Location of the Chometz That is Being Sold?

Rav Ariel Ovadia

Question: Is it necessary to write in the *shtar* the location of the *chometz* that is being sold or is it sufficient to write that one is selling his *chometz*, without specifying where it is?

Answer: A standard *shtar mechiras chometz* does say to write one's address, and many people write exactly where in the house the *chometz* will be located. Rav Moshe Sternbuch writes that the reason for this is because the *chometz* that is being sold must be a *davar mesuyim*, part of this is knowing where it is. Rav Moshe Feinstein writes that it is sufficient to write the address of the home and one does not need to write exactly which cabinet the *chometz* will be in.

Practically, Rav Elyashiv writes that *l'chatchilah* one should list all of the places where the *chometz* is but if one is more general it also works.

Question: What if someone lists all of the places where the *chometz* is but leaves out one location? For example, what if someone owns a bungalow that has *chometz* in it and forgets to mention it in the *shtar*?

Answer: That could happen and the Poskim discuss such cases. The Minchas Yitzchok writes that it will be okay since we know the seller meant to include all locations. Even though he tried to specify, he actually had in mind any place where he has *chometz*.

In the standard *shtar* it states that the *chometz* is being sold "in these locations and in any other location" in which it could be. So we try to specify to a degree, but we also cover all bases.