

Median Income

July 21, 2022

**Q** My daughter is engaged to my friend's son. The father proposed the *shidduch* to me directly, without a shadchan. Do I owe him *shadchanus* gelt?

**A** When a shadchan makes a *shidduch*, there is an obligation to pay him or her the going rate for *shadchanus*. The amount depends on multiple factors, among them the place where the work was done and the wealth of the parties. Each side must pay its share. In some cases, multiple shadchanim are entitled to a share of the *shadchanus*. Among Sefardim it is customary that shadchanim are not paid.

In your case, however, nothing is due, as *poskim* say that we assume the father made the *shidduch* for his own interests without intent to be paid (Sefer Shadchanus in Halacha, citing many contemporary *poskim*). Where one makes a *shidduch* not for his child but for his brother, or sister, *poskim* debate whether this applies, so it would seem that the parties could say "*kim li* (I maintain that those that rule I needn't pay are correct)" and exempt themselves.

Had the parents asked an outside party to serve as an intermediary during the dating, he would be entitled to some *shadchanus* for finishing the process. According to some *poskim*, he would be considered the sole shadchan and be entitled to the entire fee.

