



Newspaper Subscriptions Which Include Shabbos Delivery [#66]

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Today we're going to be discussing the question of ordering a subscription for a newspaper, or any similar publication, that comes every day, including *Shabbos*.

We're not discussing whether, when it comes on *Shabbos*, if you're allowed to use/read it. That's another discussion which we will deal with in regard to benefitting from such items once delivered on *Shabbos*. Today we're going to be discussing the actual ordering and subscribing/signing up to, let's say, a newspaper that comes every day, which includes *Shabbos* delivery.

The question is brought in the *sefer* called *Commerce and Shabbos*, by Rabbi Yosef Kushner. He brings over here that there are all different options for ordering a newspaper. You can have it come all seven days of the week, you can have it come only on the weekdays, you can have it come only on Saturday, you can have it come only on Sunday. So you have all the options available.

The question is, are you allowed to order a newspaper that comes every day? The question is, because on *Shabbos*, and *Yom Tov* also, it's going to be coming and there is *melachah* done by the *goy* in order to get it to you. Again, even though it's a set price that you're paying for the newspaper, and it's a *kablanus*, but we can't be *kovei'a/establish the work*. You're not allowed to establish that a *goy* should specifically do work for you on *Shabbos*. That's called *kovei'a melachto b'Shabbos* and it's not allowed.

So the question over here is, is that going to be an issue over here in this case in regard to subscribing for such a delivery schedule? Again, the *goy* is going to have to do *melachah*. They're going to have to print the newspaper on *Shabbos*, there's delivery on *Shabbos*, they carry it from outside the *eiruv* usually to bring it on *Shabbos*. The question is, if the *goy* does that *melachah* to get the newspaper to you on *Shabbos*, are you allowed to sign up to such a thing which causes them to do the *melachah* every Saturday and on days of *Yom Tov*?

The first thing he brings over here is that, of course, it's *asur* to read business articles of commerce and finances, things like that, and business activity on *Shabbos*. You're not allowed to read such things on *Shabbos*. Therefore, even when you get a publication which is not specifically zeroed in on those commercial topics, many times it comes into the material, like advertisements and different types of things like that. Therefore, it is advisable that the publication delivery should anyways be avoided on *Shabbos*.

Now, coming to answer the question itself, he brings over here that it would be preferable, where possible, that you should do two separate subscriptions. Like we mentioned, there is a weekday subscription and there's a Sunday subscription. So the best thing to do is, if it's possible, sign up for the weekday subscription and then sign up also for the Sunday subscription. That way, there will be no delivery coming on *Shabbos* as there are

issues, which we're not going to get into right now, of potential *halachos* of *amirah l'akum*. Therefore, the best thing to do is to sign up for the weekday and then separately for the Sunday delivery, avoiding a delivery on *Shabbos*.

Now, what if there is only a seven-day delivery option available? You can't do weekday and Sunday. He brings over here, in such a case, you should specify to the newspaper company, the people that you're signing up to, that you do not require that they deliver the newspaper on Saturday before sundown (i.e. end of *Shabbos*). You should specifically tell them that you don't require it to come before sundown on Saturday.

Like we said, the problem is being *kovei'a*, of instructing the *goy* to do work for you on *Shabbos*. In this case, where you told them that you don't need it to be delivered on *Shabbos*, they're not going to listen to you, probably, and they're going to still deliver it to you on *Shabbos*. But the problem of you telling them to do work on *Shabbos* is now avoided, because they, out of their own volition, decided to go ahead and deliver it on *Shabbos*. Therefore, it's not considered like you told them to deliver it on *Shabbos*.

Again, this is not the preferred way. In a case where you can get a Sunday and weekday delivery and avoid a Saturday delivery is the best.

Now, he says, the same would apply to when it comes out on *Yom Tov*. *Yom Tov* is coming up during the week, let's say, and it's going to be the same issue. You should call up the newspaper company or the delivery service and tell them that you do not need that it be delivered on the days of *Yom Tov* and that they can deliver it after *Yom Tov* ends. In such a case, you would avoid the specific instruction of telling them to do work for you on *Shabbos* itself.

Again, we're talking about signing up and delivery. We're not talking about the actual reading of the newspaper which was delivered on *Shabbos*. That's a separate *halacha*, of whether or not you're allowed to read something or get benefit from something that a *melachah* was done to get that to you on *Shabbos*.

*Please note that these halachos are intended to inform and educate the reader/listener in general. For any specific questions which arise, it is recommended to speak over the exact case with a competent halachic authority in order to assess the halacha accordingly. You can send your questions in to us as well by replying via WhatsApp to our halacha Q & A number on the group, sending an email to Ask@MoneyHalacha.com, or via our contact page at MoneyHalacha.com/contact-us

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