

RABBI NORMAN LAMM
THE JEWISH CENTER
131 WEST 86TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10024
—
SCHUTLER 4-3511

June 24, 1974

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

I tried calling you at the hospital last week and left a message, which probably was not conveyed to you. I also tried to catch your eye at services on Saturday afternoon at The Center, but was unsuccessful.

Please do not think I have neglected the matter you brought to my attention. I have been looking into it, and decided to consult Rabbi Soloveitchik on the question.

His first reaction was, and apparently he remains with this, that a vasectomy as a means of curbing fertility is obviously against the spirit and the word of the Torah, and therefore cannot be countenanced. He reserved judgment on the case of vasectomies performed in the process of prostatectomy as a means of reducing infection.

I then asked him to think as well of the problem of reversible vasectomies, keeping in mind the new technique you described to me, as well as a new technique I have read of in a science magazine, which requires nothing but the moving of an artificially implanted valve to restore fertility. He asked me to call him in mid-July about the problem.

If and when I get an answer, I shall of course let you know.

My best wishes for a very happy and pleasant summer to you, your wife, and your family.

Cordially,


RABBI NORMAN LAMM

NL:cw