

April 30
Ninth of 'Omer, TSHL

Rabbi Norman Lamm,
% EMC
Yeshiva

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

It has been some time since I have seen you, and I trust all is well. After receiving Semikha from Yeshiva, I spent two years at the Near Eastern Dept. of Brandeis. I currently am teaching in the Hebrew Dept. (or rather, am the Hebrew Dept.) in the State University at Oneonta, a pleasant community midway between Binghamton and Albany (i.e., in the middle of nowhere).

I would be grateful for your comments on the following matter. A boy has recently come to me for conversion, in order to marry his Jewish girl-friend. As I have never handled a conversion before, I thought it might be presumptuous of me to get involved before discussing it with someone experienced.

Before asking my questions, let me describe the specific case. [redacted] comes from liberal Protestant parents, who do not object to his converting. He is a bright, pleasant fellow, considering himself agnostic. The girl wants her children to be raised Jewish (she told me that even if [redacted] is not accepted for conversion, she will make him sign a paper that she can raise the children Jewish). Her mother is strongly opposed to the "shidduch"; but her father likes the boy's fine character and intelligence.) They

I am familiar with the relevant sources in the Shulhan 'Aruch and meforshim and 'Igrot Moshe. However, since my knowledge and opinions on this matter are theoretical, I feel I should ask your opinion on such matters as 1) whether or not to accept the boy; 2) if accepted, what course of study-- if any-- before final conversion--; 3) making arrangements for the conversion, as נתינת פסוק, etc.

I thank you in advance for considering this matter. Regards to your family and to your nephew Shalom Kellerman.

27 31222
6111 105N
Menahem White
Dept. of Hebrew
PS Building
State University of New York
Oneonta 13820
607-431-3189
-3409