

## Carrying ID Cards on Shabbat

Yeshiva University has initiated a new security policy requiring a photo ID Card to enter every YU building on campus during the Shabbat. The letter below, received from Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky by Rabbi Herschel Schachter, authorizes the permissibility of carrying ID cards around campus on Shabbat (within the "Eruv" which essentially includes all the academic buildings, residence halls and the surrounding neighborhoods for the Wilf, Beren and Brookdale campuses). All persons will be required to show a photo ID to the security officer on the Shabbat.

Rabbi Herschel Schachter on the classification of ID cards not being muktza on Shabbat and Yom Tov



A very faint, low-contrast image of a letter or document, mostly illegible. The only legible text visible is "(CARD ID (" on the right side.

And if (an ID card) was considered a utensil that's designated purpose is forbidden on Shabbat, and consequently the only permissible reason to move the utensil was for use of the utensil in a permitted way or the space it is occupying, but (in reality) it is a utensil that's designated purpose is permissible on Shabbat, therefore holding onto the ID card so that it will not be lost (after access of the building is gained) is also permitted, this is like moving it from sun to shade (a protective measure).

And even though there are those that might classify an ID Card as 'muktza' on account of financial loss, this does not seem correct. In order to be classified as such muktza it would initially have to be considered a utensil whose designated purpose is forbidden on Shabbat, but here it is a utensil whose purpose is permissible on Shabbat, the question of muktza on account of financial loss does not even arise.

This is also apparent from the words of the Rishonim, in the case of a key (Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 318:1) and a key (Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 318:1).