The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Tues, Jan 9 2024 ■ כ"ח טבת תשפ"ד
סימן שט"ו סעיף ד'-ה'

Halacha Highlight

Folding furniture

Shulchan Aruch Siman 315 Seif 5
כסא העשוי פרקים
A chair comprised of parts

Shulchan Aruch (סעי' ה') addresses the permissibility of opening a chair that is comprised of different parts. He rules that if the chair is constructed in such a manner that when one wants to sit down he merely opens it and the hide stretches out so that one could sit upon it and when it is removed one merely closes it and the leather folds up, it is permitted to open it on Shabbos. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק כ"ז) explains that it is permitted because it was constructed before Shabbos and all one does on Shabbos is stretch out the leather so that he could sit upon it. He then applies this principle to two other cases. He rules that it is permitted for one to set up a canopy if it was already attached to poles before Shabbos (ע' שעה"צ ס"ק ל"ד). It is also permitted to set up a board that is attached to a wall that is used to support *sefarim*. In these instances as well one merely unfolds something that was already constructed before Shabbos and thus it is not considered as though he is forming an *ohel* on Shabbos.

Poskim (פסקי תשובות אות ז' בשם שמירת שבת כהלכתה פכ"ד סע' כ"ג) write that the principle in our *seif* permits one to open and close a folding chair or table on Shabbos without concerns for forming an *ohel* in the process. It is also permitted to unfold and fold a folding bed. Moreover, since the coils of a folding bed are generally less than three *tefachim* apart, it is permitted to place a mattress or bedding on the bed without concern for violating the prohibition of forming an *ohel*. Based on these principles *Poskim* also permit adding leaves to a table to extend its length since one is merely adding to a temporary *ohel* and this is true even if the leaves are not attached to the table.

Overview

Siman 315 Seif 4:

If a bed is woven with ropes that are more than three *tefachim* apart it is prohibited to spread a sheet over it since that would involve making an *ohel*. It is also prohibited to remove the lower garment since that involves dismantling an *ohel*. If before Shabbos a pillow, mattress or garment was spread over it the measure of *tefach* it is permitted on Shabbos to spread something over the entire bed.

- The bed under discussion has legs that reach the ground but when it comes to our beds it is always permitted. (M.B. 24)
- Even if there is a *tefach* covering one spot it is permitted. (M.B. 25)

Siman 315 Seif 5:

Concerning a chair comprised of pieces and when people want to sit on it they unfold it and the leather opens and when it is removed one closes it and the leather folds in, it is permitted to open it even *l'chatchila*.

- Regarding our beds made from iron that are made folded and are placed near the wall, see Biur Halacha if it is permitted to spread it out on Shabbos. (M.B. 28)