

Explanation of the Sale of Chametz

5785/2025

Please read the following in its entirety before filling out the form.

Note some differences due to Pesach starting on Saturday Night.

According to the Torah, a Jewish person is forbidden to own *chametz* (חָמֵץ), anywhere in the world, during *Pesach*, even if it won't actually be seen or used during *Pesach*. *Chametz* owned by a Jewish person during *Pesach* becomes non-kosher and may not be eaten, even after *Pesach*. This is why we sell it.

- In Queens this year, the prohibition of owning *chametz* begins at **11:50 am** on Shabbat, April 12th, 2025. (The prohibition of eating *chametz* begins slightly earlier, at **10:44 am**.) The prohibition ends when *Pesach* ends – at 8:23 pm on Sunday, April 20th.
- Ideally, a person should finish eating all their *chametz* and destroy all leftovers before *Pesach* begins.
- Since in our days, destroying all of one's *chametz* is often difficult, wasteful and impractical, the rabbis have provided us with another way of fulfilling the Torah's requirement: selling one's *chametz* to a non-Jew. Non-Jews have no Jewish requirement to disown their *chametz* during *Pesach*, so if we sell them *chametz* we are not asking them to transgress anything for our benefit; by selling it, we no longer own it ourselves, and no longer risk transgressing anything either.
- **☞ This year, a complicating factor is that the day before Pesach is Shabbat. One cannot burn or sell anything on Shabbat. So, even though we may continue eating Chametz until 10:44 am on Saturday morning, we have to burn all but the last few bits of Chametz on Friday morning, and we must sell all but a small amount of Chametz before Shabbat begins. From the moment the Sale is done, we cannot use or move sold Chametz even though we're still allowed to eat Chametz; sold Chametz is no longer ours, and eating or moving it could constitute theft. If you want to eat non-Passover foods that Friday night and/or early that Saturday morning (being careful not to get crumbs on your Passover dishes), you must intentionally exclude those from your sale. Leftover crumbs will need to be disposed of in a Shabbat-compliant way, but not in a household trash can. It can be placed in an outside garbage bin or crumbled up and disposed of in the restroom, before 11:50 am Saturday.**
- By filling in the attached Power of Attorney, ICCJ's rabbi, **Rabbi Hillel Hayyim Lavery-Yisraëli** will act as your agent to sell your *chametz* on your behalf. This saves you the hassle of having to locate an interested non-Jew and negotiating the sale yourself.
- **You do not sell chametz to the rabbi!** The rabbi merely acts as an agent, and sells your *chametz* directly to the purchaser.
- All *chametz* to be sold should be gathered together in a special place or a few special places, and clearly marked "*chametz*".
- The sale will take place on **Friday afternoon, April 11th, around 6:00 pm**. Sold *chametz* must not be moved, destroyed or eaten from this point on, since it will belong to someone else.
- From that time Friday and for the duration of *Pesach*, the rabbi also rents out the place in your home in which the *chametz* is being stored – be it a closet, a cupboard, or a section in your refrigerator or freezer – which is why it should be clearly marked.
- According to the agreement with the non-Jew, once they own your *chametz*, they have the right to access it if they want to. The sale is final, not temporary, conditional, or merely symbolic.
- After *Pesach*, the rabbi gives the non-Jewish person the opportunity to sell the *chametz* back to its original owner. Assume it is yours again if you haven't heard otherwise by **9:00 pm on Sunday night, April 20th**. Chances are good you will get it back, but give the rabbi a chance to purchase it on your behalf.
- To appoint the rabbi to act as your agent to sell your *chametz*, please fill in the attached form and return it by email to the rabbi (r.hillel@iccj2004.org), or mail it to him in our office: **167-11 73rd Ave, Flushing, NY 11366**. Our deadline for receiving your forms is **Thursday morning, April 10th**.

• It is customary to contribute some money to *tzedakah* (charity) when handing in the Sale of *Chametz* form. Some of this money will be given to the non-Jewish person as a token of our appreciation for helping us out with our religious requirements. The rest will be given to those in need. You can donate to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund [online](#) or by sending in a check, payable to the "**ICCJ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**," to **167-11 73rd Ave, Flushing, NY 11366**.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rabbi Hillel at:

r.hillel@iccj2004.org or (718) 591-5610.

Pesach kasher v'esame'ach!

Have a happy and Kosher Pesach!

Rabbi Hillel Hayyim Lavery-Yisraëli.





Power of Attorney for Sale of Chametz 5785/2025

I/we hereby authorize **Rabbi Hillel Hayyim Lavery-Yisraëli** (or anyone appointed by him to do this on his behalf) to be my/our agent to sell to a non-Jew of his choosing all "*chametz*" (as defined by Jewish law) which is in my/our possession on, or which comes into my/our possession by **Friday, 13 Nisan 5785 / April 11th 2025**. Furthermore, I/we authorize him/them to rent out the spaces (shelves, cupboards, closets, freezers or sections of freezers, etc.) where the *chametz* is stored, from **Friday, 13 Nisan 5785 / April 11th 2025** until after the conclusion of *Pesach* on Sunday night, 22 Nisan 5784 / April 20th 2025. I/we understand that the sale will take place on **Friday 13 Nisan 5785 / April 11th 2025, at around 6:00 pm**. To this I/we attach my/our signature and contact information.

Full legal name(s):

	Street Address(es) where the <i>chametz</i> will be kept, e.g. " 123-45 67th Avenue, Flushing, NY 12345 ": (You might want to include your office, summer cottage, granaries, gym locker, fallout shelter, where you keep your limo/yacht/private jet, etc., if you keep food in these.)	Places at this/these address(es) where the <i>chametz</i> will be stored. (Be as specific as possible. For example: " The cupboard in the basement marked "chametz" ")
1.		
2.		
3.		

Telephone number(s) where I/we can be reached:

Email address(s):

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$, payable to the "ICCJ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund."

Signature(s):

Date:

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(Spouses/partners who jointly own *chametz* should both sign the form.)