

ASK ANYTHING

Question: I have small job, I'm a counselor on Shabbat, it doesn't pay much, do I have to give 10% to tzedakah?

Answer: While the poskim debate how obligatory giving ten percent of one's income to charity is; the general custom is to give 10%. As a counselor I'm sure you've noticed that the government has been taking some money from you each month. You only have to take ten percent of the figure that you keep, meaning after taxes. Rabbienu Yona writes that one should look forward to giving their ten percent. He explains that one should view his money as a deposit from Hashem, and how he uses his money will be one way he is judged. He says that one shouldn't look at how much they are spending, but how many people they are helping. Who you give to is your decision.