

Identification of Heirs

Ref: Sefer Kinyan, Hilchot Nachalot, Chapter 3

A person's word is accepted if he identifies his heirs as relatives. This is through the principle of *miggo*. I.e. he didn't have to say they are relatives. He could have just given them presents.

Heirs may inherit based on the general conception of the community i.e. if it is generally accepted that this person is a brother etc. Even if the person denies this, he is not believed.

However, if the community recognises a person as a son, and the father refutes this, then the father's word is accepted and he does not inherit 'father's' estate.

If a 'son' is born to a maidservant, the son is regarded as a servant and not as a son, even if the father calls him his son, unless maidservant had been freed beforehand.

If a part of a family acknowledges others as heirs and another part does not, then the inheritance is shared out according to each of their views.