

Priests – Lineage

Ref: Sefer Kedushah, Hilchot Issurei Biah, Chapter 20

To establish one's lineage as a Priest, this needs 2 witnesses who can trace lineage back to service on the Temple Altar.

Also, if lineage can be verified as to service in the *Sanhedrin*, this also assures acceptable lineage for Priests, Levites and Israelites.

Nowadays when this proof may not be available we rely on the prevailing public opinion that they are *Kohanim*.

If someone who is not known publicly to be a *Kohen*, says that he is, we do not rely on his statements. There must be at least 1 witness to confirm his statements. When there is doubt about the status of a Priest he would have to keep both stringencies of Priest and Israelite. I.e. may only marry women allowed to Priests and may not partake of *trumah* etc.