

Witnesses – 10 Conditions for Liability

Ref: *Sefer Haflaah, Hilchot Shevuot, Chapter 9*

10 Conditions need to be met for witnesses to be liable for a false oath re finances:

- The plaintiff must have first requested from them to testify.
- The matter must involve a financial claim.
- Includes movable property (i.e. not landed property, servants or promissory notes).
- Their testimony if given, would have caused defendant to pay.
- Denial must take place after charge by plaintiff (and not the other way around).
- Denial must take place in court.
- G-d's Name must be mentioned in oath.
- Knowledge of the matter must precede oath.
- Witnesses must be singled out or specified when asked to testify or when denying.
- The oath must be understood.

Even though the person may not be liable for a *shvuat haedut* due to above exclusions, he would still be liable for a *shvuat bituy* if they took a false oath.