

## 24Six

Please note: The purpose of this article is not to condone or oppose the use of the 24Six devices or app. It is for informational purposes only. Each person and family should make their own decisions based on their circumstances and upon consulting with their Rav.

One of the many challenges that parents of teenagers are faced with on a regular basis is the music that their children are listening to. Most teenagers have some sort of music device – MP3, MP4, recorders, etc., and they constantly swap SD cards or USBs full of content, which they then load onto their devices.

There are two areas in which this can be problematic: the device and the content. Many of these devices have SD card slots with copy and paste functions, FM radios, video players, and sometimes even browsers and apps. It is often hard to recognize if a device is truly 'kosher' or not.

And the content that teenagers have access to can, many times, be very problematic. All kinds of videos, podcasts, comedies, Jewish and non-Jewish songs etc. are freely shared, and it is almost impossible for parents to keep on top of what their teenagers are listening to. It is almost a certainty that a teenager with a music device will end up accessing content that their parents would not approve of. Besides, it may be against halachah and, l'havdil, secular law to share much of the content that is being shared.

Additionally, many families use Spotify or Apple Music on their parents' smart phones or computers for their family's music needs, and they come with a whole host of their own problems (see Issue # 36-37).

Until recently, there weren't many options for parents, other than trying to be on top of their children's devices as much as possible. However, recently, a new breakthrough was announced that can have a great positive effect on teenagers' music needs. A company called "24Six" developed a platform that has only Jewish singers on it. There are three ways to access this platform – the app, the Family Player, and the

Solo MP3 Player. Let's go through each one separately.

**The App.** The app has three parts to it – music, music videos, and podcasts. There are hundreds of artists that are available on the platform, many of which parents may not approve of their children listening to. There is an online portal with which parents can control what their children can access. They can choose which singers to allow and which to block. They can choose to allow only male artists or also female for their daughters. They can also block all videos and podcasts.

There are two options with which to block artists – a blacklist and a whitelist. A blacklist means that all are allowed except for those that are blocked. It can be quite tedious for a parent to go through hundreds of artists whom they probably never heard of and to try to decide which to block. Additionally, every time a new artist is added to the system, by default, they will be allowed.

The other option is a Whitelist, which means that all are blocked except for those who were specifically allowed. This option works better for most parents, as it allows them to pick the artists that they are familiar with and block all the others.

**The Family Player.** This is a device that looks like a smart phone but has no other features on it other than "24Six." It is similar to a 'Waze only' device, just that it is a "24Six only" device. It has all the features and controls of the app.

**The Solo MP3 Player.** This is a device that looks like a regular MP3 player, but has access only to "24Six" music. There are no podcasts and no videos. There is no SD card slot and it cannot hold anything else on it but "24Six" music. This takes care of all the issues discussed before regarding

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MP3s and MP4s. And parents can control what type of music and singers their teenagers can access through the online portal.

What should be taken into consideration is that, in addition to the cost of buying the device, there is also a monthly subscription fee to use the platform. Additionally, WiFi is needed to access the music; however, you can download thousands of songs to listen to offline. And the player must be connected to WiFi every 30 days in order to continue working. (They do have a 'camp option' that requires connection to WiFi only after 60 days, for those who attend

camp the whole summer and have no WiFi access.)

One more consideration that parents might want to take into account is that since artists are constantly putting out new songs, singles, albums etc., there is a risk of the 'addictiveness' factor of having a device in their pocket that is constantly being updated with new content. This can take over a child's life to a certain extent, as they are always eagerly waiting for the next update and constantly checking for what's new. However, if the device is not constantly connected to WiFi and the child has no access to WiFi, and it is only connected every 30 days, then this does not present a problem.