

Requirements and procedure of marriage at WIS

Aims and objectives:

To solemnise marriages for residents of the Worthing Masjid's catchment area according to Islamic Shariah law, The Imam or any other member of WIS is "NOT" registered as Officiant under the provisions of articles of marriage. Subsequently the solemnisation we carry out at Worthing Masjid will not be recognised by English law. For the marriage to be recognised under English Law, an appointment will have to be made for the marriage to be solemnised at the Marriage Registry Office.

Requirements:

- 1) Photographic I.D of the bride and groom.(Passport or Driving Licence)
- 2) Documents confirming the bride's and groom's dates of birth.
- 3) Documents confirming the bride's and groom's current addresses.
- 4) Original certificate of divorce issued by the registry office or a reputed Islamic Shariah Council. (If applicable)
- 5) Death certificate if the bride is a widow.
- 6) Completed consent forms obtained from WIS.
- 7) £100 compulsory fee paid towards the Worthing Masjid for which an official Masjid receipt will be issued. Any additional gift to the Imam is optional.
- 8) Shahadah certificate issued by WIS or other recognised Islamic association or Mosque in the case of either spouse being a "revert" to Islam.
- 9) Independent Confirmation of following the Christian or Jewish faith if the bride is non-Muslim.
- 10) Marriage certificate obtained from the Marriage Registry Office.

Time and Venue:

The Imam or his chosen representative will solemnise the marriage, especially if a marriage certificate is sought from WIS.

The Imam will decide according to Shariah if and how to solemnise the marriage. In this respect his decision will be final. Please ensure no third party interferes with the Imam's responsibility.

The Imam must be informed of the planned time of the wedding two weeks in advance at the latest. The Imam will subsequently advise of his availability.

Please do not invite the Imam to solemnise a marriage or for any other reason to a place where haraam activities are likely to take place (music, dancing and violation of the rules of hijab etc.)

As far as possible the nikah should be publicised, announced and performed in public, as our prophet advised "*Perform nikah with announcement and in the Masjid*".

In light of the above hadith the marriage should be solemnised in the Masjid and ideally after a salaah; the best occasion being after Jumuah salaah when the greatest number of people gather.

The etiquettes of the masjid must be adhered to by all when attending. These include remaining silent and engaging oneself in Ibadah(worship) while waiting for the ceremony to start.

Procedure:

There are four important aspects to an Islamic marriage ceremony:-

1. Offer of marriage.

- Ideally a mahram male (A close relative of the bride who she is forbidden to be married e.g. father, brother etc.) accompanied by two witnesses, should seek the bride's permission and thereafter ensure they be present when the marriage is solemnised.
- The marriage should take place with the consent of the "walee". Especially if the bride is marrying for the first time. The father enjoys this right, in his absence the grandfather, thereafter real-brother, step paternal brother, paternal & maternal uncle, etc. However an exception could be made for which clarification should be sought from the Imam.
- In the absence of a mahram male, the Imam or whomever he instructs will seek the bride's permission.
- The bride will be asked to confirm the following details verbally as well as by completing the consent form:

Name and address
Consent to the marriage
Mehr (Dowry) being sought

2. Acceptance of the offer.

- After recitation of the khutbah, the Imam will ask the groom whether he accepts the proposal of the bride.
- The recitation of the khutbah and the marriage will be solemnised by the Imam or whomsoever the Imam instructs.
- The bridegroom should ensure he recites the complete sentence "I have accepted" clearly so that the Imam and those witnessing the marriage may hear.

3. Witnesses.

- Two Muslim male individuals from those witnessing the nikah must sign the marriage certificate.
- The married couple have the right to choose who shall be the two witnesses.

4. Stipulation of the dowry.

- The bride or her representatives and the groom must agree in advance the amount of Mehr and whether it will be paid in cash or deferred.
- The best amount to fix is mahre Fatimah which is equivalent to 57 troy ounce of silver.

Marriage certificate:

Three copies of the certificate will be completed. The bride and groom will each receive a copy; the other will be retained for the masjid records.

The Imam, the bride, the groom, the walee and two witnesses must all sign and complete their part of each copy of the certificate.