



Sacramento Area League of Associated Muslims
SALAM Islamic Center, 4545 College Oak Dr., Sacramento, CA 95841, (916) 979-1933, Ext. 3



A Guide to Islamic Marriage at SALAM

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا
لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي
ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿٢١﴾

"And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquillity with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): verily in that are Signs for those who reflect."



In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

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Introduction

On behalf of SALAM, I thank you for choosing us for your marriage needs. This manual, "A Guide to Islamic Marriage at SALAM" is designed to inform you about some important details about Islamic marriage in general and policies and regulations in regards to marriage unique to SALAM.

I encourage the couple to further their Islamic knowledge of the beauty and blessing that is the Islamic nikah or wedding contract. As a Muslim American, I feel that it is important that an Islamic marriage contract be binding according to the Shari'ah (Islamic Law) and the United States Legal System. And for that reason, SALAM Islamic Center promotes a clear guideline towards legalizing an Islamic marriage that complies with the Islamic tenets as well as the laws of the State of California. I feel that this ensures the purpose of the marriage contract as a legally binding agreement between two consenting adults as well as protecting both parties and their given rights. I look forward to working with you as you head towards a lifetime, insha' Allah of marital satisfaction and success in faith.

May God guide your family always,

SALAM Islamic Center



Pre-Marital Counseling:

In order to protect the interests of each individual SALAM requires that the couple seeks pre-marital counseling with the Imam prior to taking their nuptial vows. We feel that having an unbiased third party interview the couple before the marriage vows are taken can help pinpoint and prevent potential problems in the future, insha'Allah. The Imam's opinion is, however, of advisory nature. The final decision is left to the couple to make. Please call the Office Administrator at 916-979-1933 between 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday to set a date.

Pre-Marital Procedures

Our policy requires prospective couples to go directly through the SALAM administrative office to make marriage arrangements that include, but are not confined to, all of the following, whenever applicable:

1. Determining a 'wali' (representative) for the bride, who must be present during the marriage ceremony. We require that the bride provides a signed letter of authorization from her 'wali'. The 'wali' can be: a bride's male relative, male family friend, the Imam, or any other trustworthy male person that she allows to represent her.
2. Determining the amount of dowry (sadaq/mahr) ahead of time.
3. Drafting the optional addendum to the marriage contract (the included "Bride's/Groom's Special Conditions" document) should the bride or the groom choose to clarify specific conditions as an attachment to the marriage contract.
4. Completing personal bio-data forms for both bride and groom that will stay in SALAM's possession after the ceremony.
5. Applying for a marriage license with the State of California (with the County Recorder) or the Marriage License Bureau, or other marriage permits from any other state or foreign country.
6. Providing proof of legal documentation if marriage has taken place in a foreign country. If the original language of the document is not in English, it must be translated to English by a certified translator, or notarized by an authorized person.
7. Choosing two witnesses who must be present during the actual day of the Islamic ceremony where they are required to sign all the necessary papers in the presence of the Imam.

Special Conditions

In the case of a couple requesting an Islamic marriage certificate after a civil marriage ceremony has been conducted in a U.S. court, the couple must present the original marriage certificate prior to having an Islamic ceremony.

If either one of the bride or groom has been previously married they must each provide the original divorce papers to the office of the Imam.

Please note: **SALAM DOES NOT** solemnize polygamous marriages.

Once the couple completes the pre-marital procedures as described above, they may choose a date to meet with the Imam. The administrator of SALAM will prepare the necessary papers to facilitate the solemnizing of their marriage. The Imam will review all necessary documentation and will finalize the marriage contract (akad/nikah) then conduct a marriage ceremony.

Marriage procedures at SALAM comply with the Islamic traditions based on the teachings of the Qur'an and tradition of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him.



Fees

There is a \$500.00 processing fee payable to SALAM Islamic Center, which covers the services of the Imam, administrative fees, and filing the completed marriage contract with the local government offices. This fee excludes other fees and expenses the couple might incur prior to and after their ceremony, such as hall rental, etc. The couple is solely responsible for such expenses. If the ceremony will take place outside of SALAM Center and the Imam has to travel, then the fees will be starting at \$500 depending on the distance.

Local Marriage License Distributors:

If you are looking to apply for a marriage license, go to the local Marriage License Bureau or County Recorder in any city that you reside whether it is in California or the neighboring states. You may choose to call the bureaus closest to SALAM and make the necessary arrangements at:

1. Sacramento County Marriage License Bureau at **916-874-6334**
2. Yolo County Marriage License Bureau at **530-666-8130**
3. Placer County Marriage License Bureau at **530-886-5610**
4. El-Dorado County Marriage License Bureau at **530-886-5600**
5. San Joaquin County Marriage License Bureau at **209-468-3939**

Marital Counseling at SALAM

While SALAM recognizes the right of each Muslim man in delivering 'talaq' or a verbal divorce decree and a Muslim woman her right in requesting 'khul,' we also strongly encourage that each couple go through a rigorous counseling to repair their marriage before deciding on terminating their marriage.

The office of the Imam is available for counseling for all couples going through marital difficulties. No fee is charged for such services. You can make an appointment to seek counsel with the Imam by calling the Imam's Office at (916) 979-1935.

We highly encourage you to participate in this program before declaring your 'talaq' or seeking 'khul.' You are also encouraged to seek help from other sources whether it is from a marriage therapist, family members, or group counseling to avoid a divorce.

Divorce Proceedings according to Islamic Law

After all efforts have failed then each couple might decide to have their marriage dissolved according to Shariah Law.

However, before SALAM will issue a declaration of divorce the man and/or woman must fulfill at least one of the following:

1. Proof of filing for divorce from a U.S. court.
2. Proof of dissolution of marriage from a U.S. court.
3. Proof of divorce from a foreign country but **MUST** be translated into English and notarized by the local notary public.

Prior to obtaining an Islamic divorce decree from the Imam you must first seek the dissolution of marriage certificate from:

William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse

3341 Power Inn Rd. Sacramento, CA 95826
Tel: 916-875-3400

You **MUST** follow the proceedings of family law of the state of California. It takes no less than six months of legal processing before the State of California issues a divorce certificate.

It is important that all divorce proceedings are finalized before one prepares to get married at SALAM.

Please note, the Imam of SALAM will not solemnize any new marriages without proper documentation clearly stating the dissolution of all previous marriages.



Bride's Biographical Data

Personal Information

SALAM will keep all personal information confidential and will not release it without the permission of its rightful owner. The office of the Imam will retain such information for future reference as a guide to provide assistance to the couple (if warranted).

Please type your name exactly as it appears on your current legal identification card in the U.S.A:

Name (Last in CAPS)		(First Name)	(Middle Name)	
Country of Birth		Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)		
Current Address	(Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
Permanent Address	(Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
Current Home Phone Number		Permanent Home Phone Number		
- -		- -		

Identity cards

SALAM only accepts: a valid US driver's license, a valid state ID or a valid passport. Please check only ONE option:

U.S. Drivers License

Issuing State:
License Number:
Expiration Date:

U.S. State Identification Card

Issuing State:
ID Number:
Expiration Date:

Passport

Issuing Country:
Passport Number:
Expiration Date:



Bride's Biographical Data (Continued)

Marital History

If applicable, a divorce or death certificate is required.

Have you been previously married?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of Previous Spouse (first, last)		Date of Marriage (mm/dd/yyyy)
Date of Divorce OR Death of Spouse (mm/dd/yyyy)	Number of Children from previous marriage	Country where marriage was solemnized

Employment Information:

Current Employer		
Current Employer Address (Street Address)		
(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
Employer Telephone - -		Number of months working for current employer

In case of family emergency that involves birth, death, marriage or divorce, who can you contact to assist you?

Name _____ Phone Number _____

I hereby testify that all the information above is truthful to the best of my ability.

Signature _____ Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____



Groom's Biographical Data

Personal Information

SALAM will keep all personal information confidential and will not release it without the permission of its rightful owner. The office of the Imam will retain such information for future reference as a guide to provide assistance to the couple (if warranted).

Please type your name exactly as it appears on your current legal identification card in the U.S.A:

Name (Last in CAPS)		(First Name)	(Middle Name)	
Country of Birth		Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)		
Current Address	(Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
Permanent Address	(Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
Current Home Phone Number		Permanent Home Phone Number		
- -		- -		

Identity cards

SALAM only accepts: a valid US driver's license, a valid state ID or a valid passport. Please check only ONE option:

U.S. Drivers License

Issuing State:
License Number:
Expiration Date:

U.S. State Identification Card

Issuing State:
ID Number:
Expiration Date:

Passport

Issuing Country:
Passport Number:
Expiration Date:



Groom's Biographical Data (Continued)

Marital History

If applicable, a divorce or death certificate is required.

Have you been previously married?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of Previous Spouse (first, last)		Date of Marriage (mm/dd/yyyy)
Date of Divorce OR Death of Spouse (mm/dd/yyyy)	Number of Children from previous marriage	Country where marriage was solemnized

Employment Information:

Current Employer		
Current Employer Address (Street Address)		
(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
Employer Telephone - -	Number of months working for current employer	

In case of family emergency that involves birth, death, marriage or divorce, who can you contact to assist you?

Name _____ Phone Number _____

I hereby testify that all the information above is truthful to the best of my ability.

Signature _____ Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____



Bride's Representative (Wali) Information (If Applicable)

Personal Information

SALAM will keep all personal information confidential and will not release it without the permission of its rightful owner. The office of the Imam will retain such information for future reference as a guide to provide assistance to the couple (if warranted).

Please type your name exactly as it appears on your current legal identification card in the U.S.A:

Name (Last in CAPS)	(First Name)	(Middle Name)		
Country of Birth	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)			
Current Address	(Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
Permanent Address	(Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
Current Home Phone Number	Permanent Home Phone Number			
- -	- -			

Identity cards

SALAM only accepts: a valid US driver's license, a valid state ID or a valid passport. Please check only ONE option:

U.S. Drivers License

Issuing State:
License Number:
Expiration Date:

U.S. State Identification Card

Issuing State:
ID Number:
Expiration Date:

Passport

Issuing Country:
Passport Number:
Expiration Date:

I hereby testify that all the information above is truthful to the best of my ability.

Representative's Signature _____ Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

I consent to _____ to be my representative during my marriage ceremony.

Bride's Signature _____ Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____



(OPTIONAL) Bride's Special Conditions

I _____ hereby set down these marriage related conditions as per my given rights according to the *Shari'ah* (Islamic Law). I expect my husband _____ to honor these stated conditions faithfully and respectfully. These conditions are considered a pre-nuptial agreement and are legally binding.

My request(s) is/are as follows:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

I _____ testify that I will honor these conditions and uphold them. I understand that these conditions are binding according to Islamic and American laws.

Bride's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Groom's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Imam's Signature: _____ Date: _____



(OPTIONAL) Groom's Special Conditions

I _____ hereby set down these marriage related conditions as per my given rights according to the *Shari'ah* (Islamic Law). I expect my **Wife** _____ to honor these stated conditions faithfully and respectfully. These conditions are considered a pre-nuptial agreement and are legally binding.

My request(s) is/are as follows:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

I _____ testify that I will honor these conditions and uphold them. I understand that these conditions are binding according to Islamic and American laws.

Bride's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Groom's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Imam's Signature: _____ Date: _____



CHECKLIST: Marriage Requirements at SALAM

Please review these items to ensure that you have followed all necessary procedures to prepare for your Islamic marriage.

Prior to the marriage ceremony:

Arrange for pre-marital counseling sessions with the imam

Apply for a marriage license

Find a 'wali' (representative) for the bride (Note: If the bride is previously married, she can consent to be her own wali. If the bride cannot find a 'wali,' she can consent to the imam being her wali.)

Find two trusted Muslim men to stand as witnesses to the marriage ceremony

Complete the 'Bride's Biographical data' form

Complete the 'Groom's Biographical data' form

Complete the 'special conditions' for the bride (optional)

Complete the 'special conditions' for the groom (optional)

Make copies of any of the following requisites for SALAM:

- U.S.-issued Current Driver's License
- U.S. or foreign passport
- State Identity Card

For the day of the marriage ceremony, please bring the following items:

All above mentioned forms and copies

Marriage license **OR** original marriage certificate from civil ceremony

If applicable, original divorce decree

If applicable, death certificate of former spouse

Check payable to 'SALAM Islamic Center' for the amount of \$500.00

(If the ceremony will take place outside of SALAM Center and the Imam has to travel, then the fees will be starting at \$650 depending on the distance.)

The administrator will provide assistance, if needed, to ensure the couple follows the step-by-step procedures.



In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Marriage Certificate

On this ____ day of _____ 14 ____ A.H. and ____ day of _____, 20 ____ A.C.

I _____ Imam of the SALAM Islamic Center, have officiated the marriage ceremony of the following couple according to Islamic Sharia at _____.

Bridegroom:

I, _____, born the ____ day _____,

solemnly propose to marry _____ and take her as my wife.

I agree to pay sadaq or mahr (dowry), _____ now, and _____ at a later time.

Bride:

I, _____, born the ____ day _____, _____ agree to have _____ represent me as my wali.

I, the Bride (or representative of the Bride), accept your proposal to take me (or whom I represent) as your wife with the aforementioned dowry.

1. We made this declaration before the present witnesses, praying to the Almighty Allah to be our Witness, indeed, Allah is the best of all witnesses.
2. We hereby declare that while our marriage is according to the Islamic Law, divorce, if it should take place, will also be according to the Islamic Law.
3. We hereby declare that our children will be raised as Muslims.

Signature of Bridegroom

Signature of Bride

Signature of Bride's Representative

Witness Signature

Witness Signature

Witness Name & Address: _____ Witness Name & Address: _____

Marriage License Number _____ Date Issued: _____ Issuing County and State _____

In the authority entrusted in me by Allah and our Islamic Center, and in my capacity as the Imam of SALAM, I declare that _____ and _____ are now husband and wife.

Imam of SALAM Islamic Center - Signature: _____