

THE RIGHTS OF A WIFE IN A FAMILY

1. The rights of a wife in a family are the obligations of a married husband in his home on how he should treat his wife and handle their home as the family head.
2. It should be noted that once a woman is married, she does not lose any of her rights which she possesses as an individual member of the society. She just acquires new responsibilities in life which carry with them new rights.
3. In the first place, we must know that both the husband and wife have rights and responsibilities over each other in the family and that they are guardians of one another. They are rulers of one another.

The Prophet PBUH said; *“Your body has a right over you and your soul has a right over you and your wife has a right over you.”*

4. Secondly, the husband must fulfill the promises he made to the wife at the time of contracting their marriage.
5. The wife is entitled to maintenance by the husband according to his means. This includes feeding, clothing, shelter and general care.

Allah says in Q (65:6); *“Let the women live in the same style as you live according to your means.”*

6. Although the residence of the wife should be according to the means of the husband, it must be adequate to provide her with privacy, comfort and independence.
7. The wife is entitled to good and kind treatment even if the husband does not like her.

Allah says in Q (4:19); *“...on the contrary live with them on a footing of kindness and equity. If you dislike them, it be that you dislike a thing and Allah brings about through it a great deal of good.”*

The Prophet PBUH said; *“The most excellent of you is he who is the best to his family and I am the best of you to my family.”*

8. It is the husband's obligation to provide protection to his wife against any aggressors on her chastity and defend her against humiliation or defamation.
9. The husband should not subject his wife to insecurity and uncertainty. He should not keep warning her of inflicting harm on her or hindering her freedom.
10. If the husband does not have love and sympathy for the wife, she has the right to demand divorce from him.
11. The husband should be relaxed with his wife and always cheer up with her by making agreeable jokes. The Prophet PBUH himself used to joke with his wives like running in competition with them.

12. He should call her with sweet nicknames because the Prophet PBUH himself used to call his wives nicknames.
13. The husband should see to it that his wife has sufficient knowledge of her religious obligations and to ensure that religion is practiced in their home.
14. The husband should not harbour suspicion about his wife anyhow by allowing fanciful thoughts to engage his mind and behave in a spying manner towards her but rather he should depend on mutual trust to live a happy marriage.
15. He should jealously guard her wife against any provocative situations and should not remain indifferent when his wife is undergoing corruptive influences but his jealousy should be of legitimate cause.
16. The husband should avoid dwelling on simple mistakes committed by the wife and blaming her frequently because no man is perfect. He is advised to ignore minor faults her wife commits.
17. He should always appreciate the good things his wife does for him because the holy Qur'an is clear that Allah does not want the ungrateful.
18. The husband should do everything possible to keep the secrets of their family as much as possible especially the sexual matters with his wife.
19. It is the obligation of the husband to satisfy his wife sexually to prevent her from being tempted to go for adultery if she is not satisfied.
20. The husband should caress his wife before having sex with her in order to make sex enjoyable but not painful for her.
21. The husband should honour his wife's parents and sometimes buy them presents for her to feel secure.