

## THE RIGHTS OF THE HUSBAND IN THE FAMILY

1. When she gets married, a Muslim woman assumes new responsibilities which in one way or the other are the rights of her husband. The obligations of the wife in the family originate from the holy Qur'an.

Allah says in **Q (25:74)**;                    *“And those who pray, ‘Our Lord! Grant unto us wives and offspring who will be the comfort of our eyes and give us the grace to lead the righteous.’”*

2. For the husband to benefit from the above prayer, the wife must fulfill certain obligations which are imposed up on her by the marital relationship she enters into under the marital covenant.
3. The first obligation of the wife is to create a conducive environment in which she and her husband can live together happily, by being faithful, trustworthy and honest to him.
4. She must not allow other people to have sexual access to her because it is an exclusive right for her husband.
5. Likewise, a married Muslim woman must not talk to strangers or to people whom her husband does not approve and must not admit them into their house in his absence.
6. The wife is bound to protect her husband's property from loss or waste because it is a trust in her which she must discharge wisely and diligently.
7. The management of the husband is the responsibility of the wife because in one tradition of the prophet she is described as the ruler of her husband's house and children.
8. The wife should not be too demanding but must be considerate, appreciative and contented with any service rendered to her by the husband. She should not insist on buying for her expensive things beyond his means to afford.
9. She should always appear attractive, charming and desirable to her husband. A shabby and indifferent woman makes love undesirable and therefore creates a distance between herself and the husband.
10. The wife should regard their marital home as her own place of residence and she must not leave it except in company of her husband or with his permission.

The prophet PBUH said;                    *“A woman who leaves her husband's home without permission from her him is cursed by the angels until she returns.”*

11. When she goes out for a legitimate cause, the wife should be properly dressed and should walk and behave in a dignified manner. For example, she should lower her gaze and should not strike the ground with her feet to attract the attention of other men.

12. A wife should be respectful and obedient to her husband as the natural family head. However, her obedience should be in the reasonable limits and in matters acceptable in Islam.
13. The wife should not refuse to go to bed with her husband for sex unless there is an Islamic reason for it e.g sickness, menstruation and others. In fact, when she intends to fast voluntarily, she can do so only with permission from her husband partly for that reason.
14. The wife should do everything possible to keep the secrets of their family as much as possible especially the sexual matters with her husband.
15. The wife should not deceive her husband by deliberately avoiding conception because it deprives him of children.

### **RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD**

#### **(Duties of Parents to their Children)**

1. In Islam, children are the joy of one's life as well as the source of pride. Therefore, parents should avoid indulging in overconfidence, false pride and being on guard against the misdeeds of their children which may arise out of love for them.
2. Parents/guardians must pray to Allah before having sex so as to bless them with God-fearing children and guard them against other satanic temptations.
3. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to develop their children's personality by making them dependent on them and exhibiting good morals to them in their tender age.
4. Parents/guardians must provide their children with the three major rights; the right to life and equal chances in life, the right to legitimacy (having a legal father) and the right to good upbringing and general care.
5. Parents/guardians are required to perform aqiqah for their newly born babies and all other related rituals like adhan and iqama and giving them good names.
6. Parents/guardians are supposed to give their children good education especially Islamic education in Qur'an and Sunna of Prophet Muhammad PBUH. Secular education should always be given second consideration.
7. According to Islam, the best mothers are those who are the most affectionate to their young ones by showing them maximum love but also avoid false pride in them.
8. Discrimination among children is prohibited in Islam. Male children should not be preferred to female children nor should the latter be to the former.
9. However, Islam stresses the importance of taking special care of the daughters because of their diligence. They need extra kindness due to their softheartedness.

10. It is the responsibility of male Parents/guardians to help their children to marry when they reach the right age.
11. Muslim Parents/guardians must be fond of their children and be kind to them. They should always be seen by people of other faith exhibiting love to their children.
12. Children deserve the best care from either the state or relatives whether Parents/guardians are alive or deceased, present or absent, known or unknown. They should not be left to starve.
13. Parents/guardians should establish full justice when dealing with their children to avoid leaving the children divided due to unfair judgement among them.
14. Parents/guardians are required to ask their children to do only those tasks which they can afford. Overburdening children with heavy work beyond their capacity is an abuse of parental love and authority.
15. Parents/guardians especially mothers are asked to avoid cursing their children but to always ask for Allah's blessings for them because Allah answers their prayers directly.
16. Parents/guardians should train their children religious practice at an early age e.g at the age of seven, they should ensure that they start praying.

Allah says in **Q (31:13)**; *“Behold! Luqman said to his son by way of instruction; ‘O my son! Do not join others with Allah in worship. For shirk is a grave sin.’”*

Allah in **Q (31:17)** says; *“O my son! Establish regular prayer, enjoin what is just, and forbid what is wrong...”*

17. Parents/guardians should avoid being too demanding from their children. This is because over demanding usually results in disobedience to Parents/guardians by their children.

Female relatives must not expose their bodies to mature male children. Only parts like the head, face, neck and mid upper arm to the fingers and lower parts of the feet may be shown to them