



MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE

“And among His (God) signs that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may live in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): verily in that are Signs for those who reflect.” (30:21)

We at the Islamic Center of Boca Raton would like to be the first to congratulate you on your upcoming marriage.

We are pleased to assist you with the planning. The following document describes both the Islamic and the Legal (secular) requirement and guidelines for marriage.

We ask Allah (SWT) to bless this marriage and to provide you with a righteous offspring.

Marriage (nikah) is a solemn and sacred social contract between bride and groom. This contract is a strong covenant (‘mithaqun Ghalithun’ as expressed in Quran 4:21). Both bride and groom have the liberty to define various terms and conditions of their liking and make them a part of this contract. The marriage contract in Islam is not a sacrament. It is revocable.

Islamic Requirements:

1. Guardian (Wali): The bride must have a Wali present in the ceremony. The Wali is typically the father or the oldest brother, however if unavailable or if they are non-Muslims than the Imam or one of the known member of the community can assume this responsibility.
2. Mutual agreement (Ijab-wa-Qubul) by the bride and the groom: One matrimonial party expresses 'ijab" willing consent to enter into marriage and the other party expresses 'qubul" acceptance of the responsibility in the assembly of marriage ceremony. The contract is written and signed by the bride and the groom and their two respective witnesses.
3. Dowry (Mahr): The marriage-gift (Mahr) is a divine injunction. The giving of Mahr to the bride by the groom is an essential part of the contract. It may be paid in cash, property or in form of jewelry to the bride herself. The amount of Mahr is not legally specified, however, moderation according to the existing social norm is recommended. The Mahr may be paid immediately to the bride at the time of marriage, or deferred to a later date, or a combination of both. The deferred Mahr however, falls due in case of death or divorce. The groom must discuss and come to agreement with the Wali regarding the Mahr before the ceremony.
4. Witnesses (Shohood): Two men witnesses are required for the ceremony to take place.

The Islamic Center requires along with the above Islamic Requirement:

1. Marriage License from the Court House. See the requirement in the next page
2. Identification cards for the bride, groom, guardian and witnesses.
3. A fee of \$150 applies for a ceremony conducted in the Masjid. A fee of \$250 applies for ceremonies conducted elsewhere.



In the name of ALLAH, most gracious most merciful

ISLAMIC CENTER OF BOCA RATON

3100 N.W. 5th Avenue, Boca Raton, FL 33431

Tel (561) 395-7221 • Fax (561) 395-7229 • masjid@icbr.org • <http://www.icbr.org>

A marriage contract document along with a certificate will be mailed to the Groom insha'Allah within two weeks.

Notes:

- Islam does not allow for a Muslim woman to marry a non-Muslim man.
- Converting to Islam with the only goal to marry a Muslim woman is NOT accepted. The groom MUST accept Islam by conviction and show that in action and conduct. The community must be witness of his Iman.
- It is forbidden for a Muslim man to marry a kaafir woman and stay married to her, except for chaste woman from among those who were given the Book, Jews and Christians. With the intend to invite the bride to Islam. In this situation, the couple MUST agree that the offspring of this marriage will be brought up as Muslims.
- It is recommended to have a marriage banquet (Walima) after the consummation of the marriage. Relatives, friends and community members are invited in order to make them aware of the marriage.



In the name of ALLAH, most gracious most merciful

ISLAMIC CENTER OF BOCA RATON

3100 N.W. 5th Avenue, Boca Raton, FL 33431

Tel (561) 395-7221 • Fax (561) 395-7229 • masjid@icbr.org • <http://www.icbr.org>

CIVIL/LEGAL MARRIAGE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

You do not have to be a resident of Florida to apply for a marriage license however, both parties must be present when applying. One of the following forms of identification is required for each party to obtain a marriage license:

- Driver's License issued in the United States;
- Federal or State Identification card; or
- Passport showing your name and date of birth.

Birth certificates or green cards are not acceptable. A blood test is not required.

If either party was married before, the manner in which the last marriage ended and the exact date the marriage ended is required.

Copies of the death certificate or Final Decree of Divorce, Dissolution or Annulment **are not required**.

Applicants who are 16 or 17 years of age: In addition to the above listed requirements, the following documents must be presented when one or both of the applicants are within this age bracket:

- Minor's Birth Certificate showing parent's name.
- A Parental Consent Form may be obtained at the time of the application. Both parents must be present with their own identification on hand. The exception will be if the parents are divorced and one parent has full custody of the minor. In this case, proof of custody must be presented and only the consent of the custodial parent will be required in writing.

The cost of a license is \$93.50. Residents of the State of Florida have the option of attending a premarital course from a registered provider, or waiting 3 days, as Florida law requires, for the marriage license to become effective. A directory of the premarital course providers is available at all court locations. If a certificate of completion is provided at the time of application, you will receive a cost reduction of \$32.50 and the 3 day waiting period will be waived.

If one applicant is a Florida resident and the other is not they may both attend the course to receive the full benefit. If only the Florida resident attends the course the 3 day waiting period will still be required.

The closest office to ICBR is:

State of Florida Marriage License
South County Clerk's Office
Delray Beach Court House
200 Atlantic Avenue, Room 160
Tel: (561) 274-1588