



## Guidelines and instructions for Nikah in the USA Jamā‘at<sup>1</sup>

Here is what needs to be done – some of these instructions are not given in the Nikah forms but it is **very important that all these steps are completed in the order given below**:

1. **Have the civil marriage done and obtain marriage certificate.** If civil marriage cannot be performed before the Nikah then written approval from Amir USA is required that the Nikah can be performed without the civil marriage. This approval note should be submitted with the completed Nikah Forms to the Headquarters.
2. **Four copies of the Nikah form are needed** – all signatures should be original on all four copies (photocopies of signatures are not acceptable). Marriage certificate and divorce papers (if applicable) should be attached to each form - therefore four copies of the all the supporting documents are required.
3. **Both bride and groom must complete the “Binding Arbitration Agreement” and have this form notarized** (first 4 pages of “Binding Arbitration Agreement” document) – Effective January 1, 2015.
4. **Bride and her guardian/Wali** should complete the bride portion of the Nikah forms and have witnesses (two adults) sign the forms.
5. **Haq Mahr (Dower):** Haq Mahr should be equivalent to groom’s income of 6 to 12 months. For groom from USA, Huzoor (ayyadahullāhu ta‘ālā binaṣrihil-‘azīz) has fixed Haq Mahr to be US\$10,000. In exceptional case groom can write to Huzoor (ayyadahullāhu ta‘ālā binaṣrihil-‘azīz) to seek permission for amount less than the fixed amount.
6. **Jamā‘at President of the bride’s Jamā‘at** should complete the bride part of the forms and sign/stamp. If groom lives outside of the US then Amīr Jamā‘at USA should also sign the form.
7. **Groom** should complete the groom part of the Nikah forms and have witnesses (two adults) sign the forms.
8. **A divorced groom** (khula or otherwise) must complete form “**Divorce Form**” and submit to the local President along with the Nikah Forms.
9. **Jamā‘at President of the groom’s Jamā‘at** should complete the groom part of the forms and sign/stamp. If bride lives outside of the US then Amīr Jamā‘at USA should also sign the form.
10. **Provide these forms to the missionary/president who is authorized to perform the Nikah – this should be done at least one week prior to the Nikah date. If missionary is not available to perform the Nikah then written approval is needed from Amir USA for any Jama‘at President or another**

<sup>1</sup> These instructions were developed for the members of Orlando Jama‘at but are applicable to all Jamā‘at members in USA. (Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa, President Orlando Jamā‘at)

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person to perform the Nikah. This approval note should be submitted with the completed Nikah Forms to the Headquarters.

11. **After the Nikah is announced** two witnesses should provide required information on the witness section on page 4 and sign all forms (four of them!).
12. **Missionary or the person performing the Nikah** submits all four forms to the National Headquarters (Attn: Saeed Malik, see address given below for the headquarters). **The National Headquarters registers the Nikah** and sends two copies back to the person who submitted the forms. This person then provides one copy each to the bride and groom for their records. **Written acknowledgement should be obtained from both parties that they have received the fully executed forms.**