

Nikah Service- Liverpool Muslim Society [Policy and Booking Form]



A- Policy and Procedures

- 1- The Management of Liverpool Muslim Society (LMS) warmly welcomes and wishes to congratulate prospective couples who wish to marry in accordance with Islamic law (Nikah).
- 2- The appointed Imams of Liverpool Muslim Society (LMS) who perform all Nikah ceremonies which take place in the Mosque are Sheikh Sadek Kassim , Sheikh Imran Muhammad, Sheikh Abdul Kareem Awad.
- 3- A Nikah is not recognised as a valid marriage under English law. Please see the *Important Notes* below.
- 4- The following provides a brief overview of the LMS Nikah booking process:
- 5- **Booking Form** (provided below). We recommend that bookings are made at least three weeks prior to the planned date. To make a booking, complete the Nikah Booking form and hand the signed form to the Administrator at the LMS office.
- 6- **Booking Fee.** There is a £100 for in call (at the Mosque) and £125 out call (Upon request and subject to his availability, the Imam of the mosque can also perform Nikah ceremonies at an alternative venue and it will be additional charges for his time / travel)
- 7- The application fee should be collected upon submission of the Nikah Booking form. A full receipt will be provided for all payments made. The receipt is to be provided by the LMS administrator.
- 8- **First meeting with the Imam.** Whilst not compulsory, we encourage that the parties to the marriage and/or members of the respective families meet with the appointed Imam, at a mutually agreed time prior to the day of the ceremony. The purpose of this meeting is for a general discussion with the Imam, which may include the Islamic obligations pertinent to marriage and the couple's personal circumstances. All such discussion will be carried out in confidentiality with the Imam.
- 9- **Documents required:**

Please bring **the following documents (originals + 1 copy of each)**

- Proof of address for Bride
- Proof of address for Bridegroom
- Photo ID for Bride*
- Photo ID for Bridegroom*

*passport photo page / driving licence

Other Documents, if Applicable (originals + 1 copy of each)

- If married under UK law - Civil Marriage Certificate [See “Important Note”].
- If previously married - Divorce Decree Absolute / Talaq confirmation
- If widowed - Death Certificate
- If new Muslim [revert], Conversion Certificate (for bride &/or groom).

10-Venue: The Nikah can be typically accommodated in a private room within the Mosque. Should you require a larger hall or portcabin this can be hired using the room booking request form, and the administrator can provide you with this form. All persons attending the ceremony are kindly requested to observe the Islamic tradition of dressing in keeping with Islamic values. The management reserves the right to refuse admission to anyone who does not comply with this request. See the LMS Room Booking conditions which include details of charges for the hall.

B- IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1- LMS is not registered to solemnise marriages in accordance with English law. A Nikah which is performed in the UK is not considered a valid marriage under English law and as such provides no enforceable legal marital rights. This is important to note particularly in instances of marriage breakdown or death. For this reason, we encourage all our community to ensure a civil marriage is conducted in a register office in accordance with English law and that this is carried out immediately before or after the Nikah ceremony to preserve the enforceable rights of both parties.
- 2- Marriage Certificates are only issued when both the bride and groom are either in possession of full UK / EU residency permit or they are UK / EU citizens.(A Marriage Certificate can also be Issued from LMS upon presentation of an Original Marriage Certificate issued by the General Register Office of the UK).
- 3- The applicant must either be the legal guardian of the bride (wali), the bridegroom or the bride.
4. IDs are also required, where acceptable form of ID includes UK photo driving license, passport or official government issued photo ID. It does NOT include NUS/Student card, Birth certificate or bills. Please bring the **original IDs** at the time of submitting the form. We will photocopy the IDs and return them to you the same day. Photocopies of the originals will NOT be accepted. The process requires ID of the bridegroom, the bride and the Wali.
5. The Legal Sharia guardian (Wali) must be in the following order of priority: The father, the paternal grandfather, the full brother, the bride’s son, and so on. It is mandatory for all aforementioned to be adult male Muslims.
6. If the bride or the bridegrooms are under the age of 25, LMS requires approval from the parents or guardians regardless of whether they are Muslim or not.
7. Only non-Muslim females from Christian or Jewish backgrounds may marry a Muslim man, however they must have approval from their male guardian (wali) and family.

8. It is prohibited for a Muslim man to marry his mothers, daughters, sisters, nieces, aunts, mother in-law, father's or son's wives, step-daughter from the wife with whom consummation has taken place or his female siblings through breast feeding. It is also prohibited for a Muslim man to marry a non Muslim female other than those of the Abrahamic faiths for example (females of the Christian or Jewish faith may be married to Muslim males).

9. If the bride has been previously married, she is required to produce a proof of divorce from her previous husband. A document of proof could be a divorce certificate from a Muslim country, or an Islamic centre/organisation. In absence of such, a letter of divorce from her previous husband with two Muslim witnesses would suffice, in which case we must be provided with the contact details of the previous husband for our own verification. A new marriage ceremony can only be performed after three menstrual cycles since the date of divorce, which approximates to three months, during which no marital relations must have taken place.

10. Your application will be processed and required enquiries will be made when necessary. Upon application approval, the applicant will be contacted to arrange a ceremony appointment. In cases where the application fails, the applicant will be notified and informed as to why.

11. Both the bride and groom may be required to attend an interview and advice session at the LMS prior to the Nikah (Marriage Ceremony).

12. On the day of the ceremony the applicant will be required to come to LMS for the pre-arranged appointment with all the parties mentioned in the application (i.e. the legal Sharia guardian (wali), the bridegroom, the bride and the two Muslim male witnesses).

13. Nikah application is accepted during administration hours (Mon – Friday 9am to 3pm). Applicants must allow up to three weeks before the Nikah can take place in order for processing the application.

14. Failing to reply to the LMS attempts to contact you regarding your application will result in termination of your application and also loss of your application fee and supporting documents after 6 weeks of the date of submission.

15. For help with filling this form contact 0151 709 2560 or email info@liverpoolmuslimsociety.org.uk

16. The Imams reserve the right not to perform a Nikah should they wish to do so if they feel uncomfortable or something is wrong, a full refund will be issued in such cases.

17. Please send the completed form to:

Liverpool Muslim Society office
29-31 Hatherley street
Liverpool
L8 2TJ