100 Questions and Answers on Personal Status Issues
Question: What are marriage requirements?

1- Presenting a physical check-up for the spouses from a governmental hospital in the country. Check-up made at a private hospital shall be rejected.

2- Attendance of the spouses with their passports or a copy thereof. Presenting the original of the ID is a must for citizens.

3- Attendance of the bride’s guardian (father) or an agent authorized by him with an approved power of attorney.

4- If any agency or documentation is issued from a foreign country, they must be approved from the following bodies: Foreign Ministry of the country concerned + UAE embassy in the country concerned + Foreign Ministry of the United Arab Emirates + translating them into the Arabic language by an accredited translator and having the translation confirmed by the Ministry of Justice.

5- In case of decease of the bride’s father, the guardian closest to the bride (i.e. brother, nephew, paternal uncles and then male cousin) or an agent authorized by him with an approved power of attorney (pursuant to Item 4) along with presenting a document proving the death of the father or the closest guardian.

6- If the bride is divorced or a widow, a document proving that shall be shown. The divorce must be final.

7- Attendance of two Muslim witnesses

8- With respect to the new-Muslim bride, the attendance of her guardian is not required and it is enough to deliver a certificate of social status (unmarried) from her country or the embassy of her country along with a translation of the same and having the translation certified by the Ministry of Justice.

Special requirements:

1. If the bride is Lebanese, the family and individual entries (issued within a period less than three months) and approved pursuant to item 4 must be presented.

2. If the bride is a single Moroccan, the celibacy certificate approved pursuant to item 4 must be presented.

3. For marrying a bride from a country other than the Gulf countries, an official residence of the husband + a good conduct certificate must be available.

4. Saudis and Libyans are not permitted to marry a wife with a nationality other than theirs unless under a license from the concerned authorities.

5. Qataris, Kuwaitis and Omanis are not permitted to marry a non-
Gulf wife unless under a license from the concerned authorities.

6. Bahrainis and female Yemenis are not permitted to marry under a license from the concerned authorities.

Only AED 100 shall be paid in case the notary public has to visit patients in hospitals and disabled people in their houses, after the medical report is provided and the woman serving her waiting period. In other cases, the same fee applies to sheikhs in Dubai.

1–A general question: do all notarization transactions need two witnesses?

Yes, all attestation transactions need two witnesses, except for the following attestations:

- Proving consummation of marriage (i.e. copulation has already been done).
- Effecting divorce in the presence of the two parties. This would mean effecting the divorce before the judge, but does not cover proving a divorce that had been effected before attending at the court.
- Changing the first name.
- Returning the wife into one’s bond of marriage in the presence of the two parties.
- Declaration of waiving the dowry or taking it.
- Attaching the children to the nationality of their mother in the presence of the two parties.
- Appointing a chosen guardian in the presence of the father only.
- Attesting to the continuity of marriage, unless there is a legal restraint.
- Attesting to the attainment of maturity age.
- Attesting of a trade permit.
- Attesting a declaration of embracing Islam.

I am not a Dubai citizen, and I am neither holding its nationality nor holding a passport and want to marry a citizen whose nationality is issued from a country other than Dubai.

If the girl’s passport is issued from a country other than Dubai, the Emirate court that issued the girl’s nationality must be consulted to know the procedure necessary to be taken; since the marriage permit is to be issued to the girl depending on the Emirate from which the passport and nationality are issued.
2. Can the father attest to his son and vice versa?
The son’s attestation to his father and the father’s attestation to his son are allowed only in one case, namely for proving the consummation of marriage (i.e., that copulation has already been done); since the Marriage Fund requires that one of the wife’s relatives be present in which case the presence of the father as witness would be acceptable.

3. I made a medical checkup and was given a report with a note. Is that enough?
The final result of the report must be shown under the approved form, since the contract cannot be made in the two following cases: If it is proven that one or both parties are infected with, and the other is bearing, a hereditary blood disease. If it is proven that one of the parties is infected with a contagious disease which could be transferred to the other party.

4. Do we have a certain procedure for attaching the children to the nationality of their mother?
Yes. Parents should bring with them the birth certificates of their children. If the age is over 18 years, the citizens’ identity must be proved and the passport and residence in Dubai must be proven for non-citizens. All our transactions require two Muslim witnesses.

5. A man holding a Yemeni passport and a marriage contract made in Abu Dhabi has got an Emirate passport and wants to have an amendment in the marriage contract according to the new nationality. Is that possible?
No, he can’t amend the contract. However, he can make a continuity of marriage as per the normal procedures adopted; namely, attendance of the spouses and two witnesses along with presenting the ID card and the original marriage certificate.

6. A female citizen gets married and wants to separate her nationality from that of her father. The Nationality Department wants an approval of that from a court of law. Can you issue an approval of separating the nationality of the daughter from that of her father after her marriage?
This issue is not covered under the jurisdiction of the courts of Dubai.
7. A citizen from Dubai wants to marry a female Lebanese residing there. 
   He would be subject to the normal marriage procedures, but he should forward an approval letter from the concerned authorities of their country.

8. A Jordanian residing in Dubai wants to marry a female Lebanese who has only a sojourn in Dubai. 
   The residence of only one party in Dubai is enough. However, the Lebanese must present a family entry and an individual entry that has been issued within the three previous months.

9. An Ajman citizen wants to marry a female Emirati residing in Dubai and having a passport and a decree. Is that possible? 
   Of course, under the normal marriage procedures which allow the citizens of Ajman Emirate to marry female citizens from GCC. In cases other than that, Legal Ajman Court must be consulted.

10. A woman wants to marry a person with a decree. Is the father’s decree required, or must she have a personal decree? 
    The decree or the declaration of the engaged or her guardian verifying that she holds a passport without nationality is enough.

11. Can a brother attest to affirming a case (divorced – widow)? 
    Yes. The brother can testify.

12. What is the amount of dowry required from non-Muslims? 
    Non-Muslim marriage contract shall not be made in Dubai courts. For a marriage contract to be made, the husband must be a Muslim and the wife must only be either a Muslim, Christian or a Jew.

13. A citizen wants to get married. But a physical checkup revealed that he is suffering from a certain type of disease (for example Alzheimer). What are the procedures to be taken in such a case? 
    The documents required must be forwarded to the religious attestation department, and, then, the application will be investigated.
14. What is the quantity of dowry required from citizens and non-citizens? For citizens, it is AED 50,000, divided into 20,000 placed in advance and 30,000 delayed. For non-citizens, the dowry is open without limits.

15. A man from Dubai having a passport and decree wants to marry a girl having a passport and nationality from Abu Dhabi. What can he do? He has to consult the court of Abu Dhabi.

16. What about confirming the kinship relations? This is required from the citizens of Dubai only.

17. What about attesting to support? The attesting person must attend with his passport and two witnesses and the supported person – if mature – along with presenting an income certificate for the supporter. The supported person mustn’t have any source of income nor any trade license. One of the parties must be a citizen.

18. Must non-Muslims make a will? The will is applicable for Muslims only.

19. A woman wants to get married, but she doesn’t have a father and her brother is 20 years old? No problem. She can present the death certificate of her father.

20. She wants to confirm the continuity of her marriage, but her husband is absent? The husband must attend. However, if he can’t show up, he must have a proxy in respect thereof made.

21. Is the first name of the newcomer required to be changed? The first name only of the holders of a registration extract must be changed.

22. A divorced woman wants to get a document proving that she lives with her children. She must show up with her ID, along with her children, if at or
over 18 years old with an ID for each of them. Moreover, she must forward a divorce certificate and the ID and be accompanied by two witnesses.

23. A man wants to appoint a chosen guardian for his children. What can he do?
The father of the minor children must appear, with his ID and two Muslim witnesses. In addition, he must bring the birth certificates of the children along with the chosen guardian.

24. Can the court employee move into one’s house for writing a will?
Generally speaking, such movement has been stopped. In some limited case and under certain circumstances hampering the people concerned, the courthouse must be consulted, and the whole papers presented. In addition, the cause of failure to appear before court must be forwarded.

25. A 19 years-old married woman wants to get a loan from the bank. Must her father appear there or is the presence of the husband enough?
The approval of the minor’s father is necessary for concluding out such type of transactions.

26. In case of getting back the wife into one’s bond of marriage, after the first divorce and after termination of the legal waiting period, is it necessary for the guardian to show up?
Yes. After the termination of the legal waiting period, the guardian must show up; since it would be a new marriage contract.

27. A marriage contract was made between a citizen and a Moroccan woman with a dowry of AED 20,000 placed in advance and 30,000 deferred. But the Moroccan wants a deferred payment of AED 300,000. Is it possible to attest to increasing the dowry by mutual agreement between the spouses?
The parties can show up and take the procedure of attesting to increasing the dowry.
28. When pronouncing a sentence in a labor claim, how long it would take to execute the sentence?
One week as from the date of issuing the sentence.

29. A person has changed his name and now he wants to change his name in the marriage contract. Is that possible?
He cannot change his name in the marriage contract, but he can get a matrimonial continuity certificate.

30. A Syrian with a civil marriage contract from Cyprus wants to have that contract certified. What can he do?
We don't have nor certify such civil marriage. So he has to go to the Syrian embassy.

31. After the medical checkup required for marriage, thalassemia disease was found in both parties. Can the marriage contract be made? And what are the diseases allowing the making of marriage contract?
In case a disease preventing from marriage is found, the parties shall be made aware of the situation by the hospital that had made the checkup. For more details, the inquirer may have recourse to the court and present the result of the check up there; whereby he/she would be correctly informed.

32. A woman having a passport and nationality but her divorcee does not have the same. He wants to return her into the bond of marriage. They have two children?
The system does not allow that, since he’s not going to get her back but he is going to remarry her.

33. A male Yemeni married a female Yemeni in Yemen, and then divorced her for the first divorce there. He now wants to divorce her 3 divorces before the court in Dubai. He resides in Dubai while she resides in Yemen?
He has to consult the Legal Court and present all relevant documents.
34: A man, having 7 children, wants to support his divorced mother who gets a pension from the Social Affairs Department. Moreover, he wants to support his divorced sister who also gets a pension from the Social Affairs Department?
He has to consult the Legal Court and present all relevant documents.

35. Is the marriage commissioned officer allowed to go to a certain place to make a marriage, if the husband is a citizen and the wife is a newcomer?
Yes, on condition that the engaged party has a residence in Dubai. An application for sending a legal marriage commissioned officer approved by the court president must be presented first.

36. A male citizen married in Britain and having a marriage settlement but not a certificate. He wants to register the marriage in court. What is the procedure required?
If that is not an official contract matching the Emeriti personal status law, he has to claim for confirming the authenticity of marriage.

37. A man from Sharjah is refusing the marriage of his daughter to a newcomer. What is the situation?
Among the conditions of marriage are the approval of the guardian and holding Sharjah nationality.

38. How long it would take to change the first name?
After submitting an application, all the public prosecution, passport department and investigation authority are addressed. There is no time limit for receiving a notice, because this depends on the work systems there; especially that it would pertain to certain investigations and examinations.
After receiving the notice, a contact is to be made with the applicant with a view to publicizing in two official newspapers for one day, and then waiting for a month as of the date of publication as a period for objection from anybody.
In case there isn’t any objection, the attestation would be carried out in the presence of the applicant and two witnesses. The newspapers concerned must be shown.
39. A man having a custodianship and care certificate wants to get a certificate allowing issuance of a passport to a foundling (the addressed authority: Emigration Department)?

There is a special law for foundlings. He has to consult the nationality and residence department. As for follow-up of the foundling’s affairs, he has to consult the Social Care Section, Public Prosecution.

40. What is the procedure to be taken for attesting the termination of the legal waiting period?

Upon the termination of the legal waiting period and the desire to verify that, a certificate confirming the continuity of divorce shall be issued as per the established procedures.

41. Regarding the certificate of raising children, is it possible to get it by means of a copy of the child birth certificate rather than the original?

Yes.

42. Upon the termination of the legal waiting period, is it necessary to check with the verification department in order to confirm non-return to the bond of marriage?

The base in divorce is the non-return to the bond of marriage. In case of return to the bond of marriage, the husband has to prove such non-return. We do have a testimony that she had not married after divorce, and this testimony pertains only to the female citizens or the divorced female citizens.

43: Can a man get a trade license certificate if his passport is from Sharjah and he is residing also in Sharjah?

No, this is not allowed.

44. A legal notice was issued; but one of the wills of the deceased was not included in the notice. The will is directed to his wife bearing the will that was approved by the official authorities. She is also one of the heirs.

The will has nothing to do with the legal notice. The holder of the will has to submit the will in the heritage file and ask the heritage judge
to execute the will and distribute the heritage in conformity with it.

45. Can a man announce Islam and get married on the same day?
Yes.

46. The guardian of the minor was his mother. Now that she died, what are the procedures to be taken for changing the minor’s guardian?
An application for appointing a guardian must be submitted through a financial status file, or a guardian is to be appointed via the legal notice of the deceased mother.

47. Is it possible to accept a proxy from a guardian to get a trade license?
Yes, provided that the guardian was delegated in his capacity as guardian for the minor to whom the license is being required.

48: Regarding the Lebanese, can marriage be contracted if the approved individual entry is available but the family entry is not, due to the difficulty of travel?
If the engaged woman is Lebanese, the Lebanese government stipulates that both the individual and family entries be shown.

49: Is it possible that the son be the guardian for his mother, keeping in mind that the son is 18 years old?
Yes he can.

50. Is it possible that a birth certificate be issued in Dubai for a girl born in 1975 in Bangladesh?
She has to check with the preventive medicine authority, because they are the competent authority.

51. What about proxies in marriages or divorces?
Regarding proxies in marriages or divorces, a proxy must be a special one. The name of the husband, allowed to be married by means of the proxy issued by the guardian, must be included. The name of the wife must be included in the divorce proxy.
52. Is it possible to issue a nursing verification certification for a divorcee, knowing that her children are mature (the application of Muhammad Bin Rashed Housing Foundation)?
She can apply for approving a statement that she lives with her children at the notary public.

53. A citizen wants to get a passport for his Omani wife (a marriage continuity certificate has been issued) by applying for the signature of the judge on the original marriage contract?
Any signature or statement cannot be attached to the original contract. The correct procedure is the continuity of marriage.

54. Is it possible to complete Islam and marriage announcement transactions if residence or sojourn is terminated?
No marriage transactions of persons violating residence law in the United Arab Emirates could be undertaken.

55. Is it necessary to get an approval from the council to confirm two names?
No, on condition that he is a citizen in Dubai and shows what proves the two names.

56. An Omani wants to get a certificate confirming that he has only one daughter.
A man or woman can apply for issuing a certificate confirming his/her fatherhood/motherhood on condition that he/she has something to do with Dubai and that the son is present, if more than 18 year old.

57. A Filipino woman adopted Islam while she is still married to a Christian in the Philippines. She wants now to marry a Muslim. What can she do?
She has to file a case for nullifying the existing marriage contract.

58. A citizen holding an Abu Dhabi passport is married to an Egyptian in Egypt but they live now in Dubai. The matrimonial certificate is approved from the concerned authorities. Is it possible to issue a marriage continuity certificate from the
In case a female citizen marries a non-citizen person outside the U.A.E. and wishes to issue a marriage continuity certificate, they have to consult the Emirate court that had issued the wife’s passport.

59. A person wants to change his name in a legal notice, in accordance with the name changing certificate that he holds. Can he do that?

If the legal notice was issued before the name changing day, it cannot be changed. Accordingly, he has to show the name changing paper whenever presenting the notice to any institution.

60. Can a marriage continuity certificate, or whatever, be stamped by (true seal) from the archive department? And how much this would cost?

Yes, this could be done. The cost is AED 25.

61. A woman wants to get a marriage continuity certificate, knowing that her husband is in prison?

The wife has to coordinate with her husband’s prison so as to get that certificate.

62. Is a special proxy needed for the legal approvals?

Regarding marriage or divorce, the proxy must be special. Other than that, the proxy must be general on condition that it is suitable for the issue to be done.

63. Is it true that in marriage that the suitor must be more than 21 years old and the girl more than 18 years old?

The husband must be more than 21 years old. If he is younger than that, the approval of the court is necessary before marriage.

64. What are the documents required with respect to applying for the coming of a marriage commissioned officer to a house to contract the marriage?

They are the documents needed for marriage + applying to the personal status department. If one of the parties is not a citizen or a Gulf citizen, the president of the Legal Court must approve that.
65. Is a written approval from the Nationality and Residence Authority needed to change the name of the tribe?
Yes, such approval is mandatory.

66. May the husband attest to his wife in proving her maturity?
No witnesses are required.

67. A person wants to change his name in a legal notice in accordance with the name changing certificate that he holds. Can he do that?
If the legal notice was issued before the name changing day, it cannot be changed. Accordingly, he has to show the name changing paper whenever presenting the notice to any institution.

68. A female citizen married to a newcomer and wants to issue a certificate for supporting her husband’s mother.
She cannot support her husband’s mother unless after proving that the husband is unable to work.

69. Is it possible to issue a residence and nursing statement under a proxy?
Yes, provided that the nursing capacity is present in the proxy.

70. Regarding a father’s no-objection statement that his son could bear the Emirate’s nationality, should this be done before a public notary?
This type of statement falls under the jurisdiction of the Personal Status Authority. However, if the mother is not a citizen, the jurisdiction shall fall under the public notary.

71. Is it possible for a person to issue a proof of motherhood if the mother is dead?
The mother is the person who testifies that a person is her son. So, he has to file a claim for proving his kinship.

72. An Iraqi wants to marry a citizen. Is it possible for him to submit a copy of a good conduct certificate as per the law of Dubai?
No, the original of the certificate must be submitted.

73. A person wants to attest to the marriage contract of his sister. Is this possible?
Yes, he can be a witness to the contract.

74. A citizen from Sharjah wants to apply for issuing a trade license before the courts in Dubai. Can he do that?
No, he can’t because he must be a citizen of Dubai.

75. A citizen of Dubai wants to get married, but his ID is missing. Can he marry?
Yes, but after presenting the paper, in which he had announced the missing of his ID, showing the receipt number.

76. Is it necessary that the witness must be a citizen of the country?
No, that is not necessary.

77. A husband asks whether the wife’s pocket money is stated in the marriage contract?
No, that is not to be stated but agreed upon by the spouses.

78. A citizen from Emirate of Dubai wants to get married, but her guardian is outside the country. Is her brother authorized to be her guardian in marriage; especially that he has now a general proxy?
No, he can’t unless that proxy is special.

79. A female with a Yemeni nationality asks whether she can get married, knowing that her residence will expire after one month.
Yes, she can get married before the expiry of her residence period.

80. A citizen from Dubai wants to marry a 17 years old female Yemeni and after one month she will complete 18 years. Does she need an approval from the president of the legal court?
Yes, she needs an approval from the president of the legal court.
81. A female citizen from Dubai wants to marry a Saudi. Is the marriage commissioned officer allowed to go to one’s home?
Yes, the marriage commissioned officer is allowed to go to people’s places.

82. A Moroccan residing in Dubai wants to marry a female Spanish who announced her Islam in K.S.A. and approved only by the institution in which she announced her Islam. Can the court accept her?
No, for she must be approved by the Saudi Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the UAE embassy and, then, by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

83. A female citizen from Dubai wants to change her first name and her age is 18 years. But her guardian is refusing that. What can she do?
A83: She can do nothing without the approval of her guardian.

84. A Briton wants to confirm his current status, namely that he is unmarried.
No, he must consult the British embassy.

85. A man wants to waive his share in heritage.
He must apply for issuing a legal notice and then open the file of the heritage. If necessary, the issue may be referred to the heritage judge to open the heritage waiving file.

86. A citizen from Dubai wants to marry a newcomer and arrange for a matrimonial residence for her after marriage. Can he marry her under an expired residence?
The rule is that those violating the nationality and residence law cannot be received.

87. The land is a gift from Municipality and the building is a gift from Sheikh Zayed’s Project. The Land and Property Department refused to issue a right-of-disposal certificate because it is a gift. Is it possible to make a gift without this certificate?
The disposal of a real-estate cannot be registered unless under the approval of the Land and Property Department.
88. In a marriage contract issued from the courts of Dubai, the wife has the passport and decree of Dubai. But the husband is a citizen from Al–Fujairah Emirate. He wants to change the wording from (Emirate’s passport) which was recorded in the contract because it was rejected in Al–Fujairah’s Passport Authority. However she does not hold evidential papers. Is there any way out?
We can't change the wording, since, in fact, she holds an Emeriti passport.

89. A female citizen wants to know the procedures necessary for opening a file in the family guidance department?
The new cases are received from 7.30 until 11.
The documents required to open a file in the family guidance department are passport and marriage contract. Citizens must show the ID card.
Three sessions for reconciliation will be set, but in case of possible reconciliation, the number of sessions may be extended to four according to the situation.

90. Is it possible for a man suffering from a hemoglobin disease to marry a woman bearing the hereditary thalassemia?
A90: They have to consult the court.

91. A man wants to get a trade license. He is the adopted son of a deceased father.
He must bring the death certificate and (custodianship and custody) certificate. He needs no witnesses.

92. A female Russian adopted Islam and wants to get a celibacy certificate. She consulted the Russian embassy, but they refuse to issue that paper.
She must bring that paper from Russia.

93. A newcomer wants to change the name of his daughter who is borne in Dubai?
He must check with the embassy, since changing the names in undertaken only for citizens.
94. A female citizen wants to get married and her father is dead. Her guardian is a maternal step brother? She can’t marry unless under a special proxy to her paternal stepfather.

95. A woman wants to change the wording of the (custodianship and custody) certificate, from a “known mother” to “unknown parents”? She must check with the public prosecution.

96: How to confirm two names to one person? That person must attend, accompanied by an ID card, two witnesses and evidential papers of the previous name. He must also be a citizen of Dubai Emirate.

97. A citizen wants to get a marriage continuity certificate, knowing that he lacks a marriage contract (since his marriage contract was issued from the Sudan)? He has to file a lawsuit for proving marriage and must attend on time, accompanied by his wife, two witnesses and an ID card.

98. A citizen wants to get a no-copulation statement certificate (for collective marriages). What can he do? He has to attend, accompanied by his wife, two witnesses, marriage contract and his ID card.

99. In case a custodial mother gets married to another person, can she remain to have custody over children? Yes, in case the father agrees.

100. A man who has got a missing identity certificate from the Identity Authority. Is that certificate enough for issuing a tribal change? Yes, but he must bring his passport.

Notes: All the applications are made available online at our site www.dc.gov.ae and the e-mail: info@dc.gov.ae for more info.: please call: +9714 334 7777