

THE ISLAMIC CENTER OF TACOMA  
2010 BRIDGEPORT WAY WEST  
UNIVERSITY PLACE, WA 98466

## ISLAMIC CENTER OF TACOMA MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE

The Islamic Center of Tacoma abides by following procedures and policies when performing a marriage (nikah), attesting marriage document or issuing a marriage certificate:

- The bridegroom must be a Muslim.
- The bride must have a Wali (Guardian) present during the ceremony. The Wali is typically father or the older brother, however if unavailable or they are non-muslim then Imam or person performing the marriage will guide the couple to arrange for possible alternatives that meets the Islamic requirements.
- A dowry (Mahr) i.e. a gift to the bride from the groom must be agreed before nikah.
- Arrangements must be made in advance (recommend 2 weeks) to have the nikah performed by Imam (when we have one), make alternate arrangement or to have marriage ceremony at the center.
- Attend counseling sessions if required by law.
- Must have following documents (original and a copy of each):
  1. Marriage license from the county or state of Washington
  2. Valid ID of bride, groom, guardian and witnesses
  3. Divorce or husband's death certificate if bride was previously married
- All the above requirements without exception are to be met, to have marriage ceremony on the premises of the Islamic center of Tacoma or have Imam or other office holder perform nikah or be the witness.
- Unless above requirements are met Islamic marriage certificate could not be issued by Islamic center of Tacoma.
- If bride is from ahle-kitab i.e. among those who were given book then Islam would be presented to her before the ceremony.

Please be advised that these procedures and requirements apply to all, and **under no circumstances** a marriage ceremony (nikah) be performed without state issued marriage license. It is your responsibility to register the marriage properly and obtain proper documentation. **Islamic center of Tacoma is unable to issue certificate or record of marriage later.**