

Conditions

- * Imām Azfar does not perform interfaith marriages. If the fiancé is Muslim and the fiancée is a practicing Christian or Jew, then Imām Azfar may perform the Nikah, provided there is an agreement that the children grow up to be Muslim. In addition, interfaith marriages will not be performed in the masjid.
- 1) Please email the full names of the bride, groom, walī (guardian for the bride) and two male witnesses male Muslim witnesses that are bāligh (i.e. reached adulthood) to Imām Azfar
- 2) Mahr (dowry). The dowry should be discussed and agreed upon before the Nikāh ceremony to avoid debate and save time. Please let Imām Azfar know the mahr amount from before.
- 3) Where will the Nikāh take place? Please email Imām Azfar the address. If it's going to take place in DuPage County, both of you must go to DuPage County's clerk office. The first link is for Cook County, the second link is for DuPage county, the third link is for Lake Country.

<http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/vitalrecords/marriagelicense/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.dupageco.org/countyclerk/1822/>

<http://countyclerk.lakecountyil.gov/vitalrecords/pages/marriage-licenses.aspx>

- 4) After they issue the license to you, bring the license to the night of Nikāh so the two witnesses and Imām Azfar can sign it. **Imām Azfar will not perform any Nikāh without a valid marriage license which must be present at the time and place of the Nikāh ceremony.** The day following the Nikāh, Imām Azfar will mail the license. (For your own benefit, you should copy the marriage license for your own records before you bring it to the night of Nikāh). The marriage license and the marriage contract are two different items. The license is what is required by the state. The contract is for your own records.

5) After you email Imām Azfar requesting to perform your Nikāh, he will ask you to fill out a pre-marital counseling survey. The forms must be emailed to Imam Azfar 48 hours in advance of the pre-marital counseling session.

6) At least a week before the Nikāh, **both the bride and the groom must attend the mandatory pre-marital counseling sessions.** The entire session may take one to two hours. The sessions can take place in person at IFN or via Google Hangouts. Please take notes during the session. At the end of the pre-marital counseling session, Imām Azfar will sign a form that states the approval or disapproval of the couple's readiness for marriage. This is mandatory. (It's recommended that this step takes place before the couple decides to apply for the marriage license). They will learn the five love languages, the rights of the husband and the wife according to the Shariah, how the Prophet (upon him be peace) was a family man, how to maintain love after the honey-moon stage is over, how to resolve conflicts (including when the conflict is in regards to religious disagreement), the importance of tawbatun nasūha, 'afwa, and what to expect in a sincere apology.

7. The Imām will only perform the Nikāh in the Masjid (on rare occasions the location may be elsewhere) If it is performed elsewhere, the Imām must be given the exact timing of the Nikāh ceremony and that is the time the ceremony must start.

8) On the Nikāh, this is the procedure

a) Imām Azfar will give a 8-10 minute lecture about Nikāh and how to prepare for a successful marriage.

b) Imām Azfar will briefly explain the primary requirements of Nikāh and the secondary requirements of Nikāh (3 minutes)

c) Imām Azfar will recite the Arabic Khutba-tun-Nikāh to formalize the marriage (2 minutes)

d) Imām Azfar will then ask the father of the bride, "Do you (father's name) give consent to your daughter (bride's name) to get married to (Groom's name) in marriage in the presence of the two witnesses? (it's better to have the witnesses sign before so it can run smoothly)

e) Then Imām Azfar will ask the bride, “Do you (bride’s name) accept the groom (groom name) in marriage as your lawfully wedded husband?”. Please let Imam Azfar know whether the wali will speak on behalf of the bride or if the bride will also like to say the words, “I do”

Then Imām Azfar will ask the groom, “Do you (Groom’s name) accept the bride (Bride’s name) in marriage as your lawfully wedded wife?”.

f) Imām will conclude with a short du’ā to wrap up the Nikāh (2 minutes)