114624 - Is It Prohibited to Take Your Husband’s Last Name?

the question

I read on your website the questions and answers regarding the issue of women changing their surname upon marriage. My question is, can a husband force his wife to change her surname against her will? And what can the wife do if her husband and his family are pressuring her to change her surname in the name of legal issues?

Summary of answer

It is not permissible for a woman to take her husband’s name or his family name because that is attributing oneself to someone other than one’s father, and the husband has no right to force his wife to change her surname to his.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Is it prohibited to take your husband’s last name?

It is not permissible for a woman to take her husband’s name or his family name because that is attributing oneself to someone other than one’s father , and imitating the disbelievers from whom this custom was adopted.

Al-Bukhari (3508) and Muslim (61) narrated from Abu Dharr (may Allah be pleased with him) that he heard the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) say: “Any man who knowingly attributes himself to someone other than his father is guilty of disbelief. Whoever claims to belong to a people when he has nothing to do with them, let him take his place in Hell.”

‘When he has nothing to do with them’ means, when he has no lineage among them, as is

highlighted in some reports.

Can a husband force his wife to take his family name?

The husband has no right to force his wife to change her surname, and if he forces her to do it, she should not obey him, because it is obedience to a created being which involves disobedience to the Creator.

So she should persist in her refusal and explain to him that it is prohibited, and look for Islamically acceptable means of establishing her rights from a legal point of view.

For more details, please see the following answers: 6241 , 4362 , and 82138 .

And Allah knows best.