156857 - Does she have to ask her husband who is travelling for permission to travel with her family?

the question

My sister is married, with two children. Her husband is away from his home living in another city with his parents for one month. It means their house is closed. During this absence she lives in my house with my parents. We have houses in more than one city. We want to go with my family to another city where my house is until her husband returns back to his home.

My question is, while my sister is living with us, if suddenly we make a program to go to another city where my house is for a short period, does she have to inform her husband and get permission?

Kindly request you to answer me according to shari'ah.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

The basic principle concerning a woman is that it is not permissible for her to leave her husband's house without his permission. That is part of obedience to her husband that her Lord has enjoined upon her, and part of her care and respect towards him, and part of treating one another honourably.

That applies except in cases of necessity; she may go out if need be.

It says in Matalib Ooli'n-Nuha (5/271): It is haram for the wife to go out without her husband's permission or unnecessarily, such as going to buy food if there is no one who can bring it to her. End quote.

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As the husband is travelling and the wife (your sister) has her two children with her, her being with you is better and safer for her. If you travel and she goes with you, that is better for her than staying on her own with her children in her husband's house with no one to keep her company. So there is nothing wrong with her travelling with you without her husband's permission, unless he has told her not to travel, in which case she should ask him for permission and not go out without his permission, except in case of necessity.

Ibn 'Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked:

If a woman knows that her husband will allow her to go to her family and relatives, is it permissible for her to go without his permission in case of necessity?

He replied:

This depends on what she knows of her husband's preference. In some cases, the wife knows that the husband would give her permission to go out to see her relatives in case of necessity, and in other cases the wife knows that the husband does not want his wife to overstep the mark with regard to what he has permitted. So it depends on how the husband is. But if he has told her not to go out for any need or reason other than this specific purpose, then it is not permissible for her to go out except for this specific purpose. End quote from Fatawa Noor 'ala ad-Darb by Ibn 'Uthaymeen, 10/298

He was also asked:

What is the ruling on a woman who goes out without her husband's permission?

He replied:

If her husband is present it is not permissible for her to go out except with his permission. If he is absent, she may go out so long as he has not forbidden her to go out and said "Do not go out." If he has told her not to go out, he has the right to do that. End quote.

Fatawa Noor 'ala ad-Darb by Ibn 'Uthaymeen, 10/298

And Allah knows best.