

**Question:**

- What are the rules of Islam related to finding a marriage partner?
- Can meetings take place, if so who must be present other than the girl and the boy?
- Where can these meetings take place? How many meetings are allowed before you make a decision and also before a nikah when you have made the decision to marry the person?
- Are you allowed to exchange photos where the girl has not got her khimar and jilbaab on?
- What is the issue of engagements when rings have been exchanged, are they Islamic?
- How many brothers can a sister pursue for marriage, to see if they're compatible, at one time?
- Do you need the permission of your father to marry who you want?
- Do you need the permission of your father before you pursue for marriage?
- Does your father need to be 'aware' of you pursuing or not?
- If a sister is in a forced engagement is this valid, what can she do to be able to marry someone of her own will when her dad is against it and when she is engaged to someone (forced)?
- What is the issue of wali amr?

**Answer:**

Assalamu Aleikum,

Q: What is the Ahkam for Engagement in Islam?

A: The Definition of Engagement in Islam is 'A Private arrangement with the intention of marriage between a suitable Muslim man and a woman via her guardian i.e. Wali Amr'. The explanation of the above definition: A private arrangement means an unbinding secret agreement. - A Suitable Muslim man means he is Muslim, Mature, Sane or his representative e.g. his father is etc... A Suitable woman means a Muslim woman or woman from the people of the book (Jew or Christian) free for marriage from any Shari'ah prevention e.g. if she is still married or in her I'ddah of divorce or widowhood or pregnant or if she has had a previous intimate relationship with him or is a prostitute a fornicator or a Mushrik (Hindus or Sikhs) etc... Via her guardian means that the arrangement is made with the knowledge of her original Wali Amr i.e. her father.

Q: Am I allowed to see my fiancée without her Khimaar and Jilbaab? A: It is permissible for you to see her without Khimar and Jilbab as long as she is covering her hard aworah i.e. from her chest to over her knees. However although she has the permit to uncover her soft aworah in front of you she is not obliged to use the permit.

Q: How much I am allowed to see from her body?

A: You are allowed to look properly at her eyes, face, hair, arms and hands.

Q: Am I allowed to go out with her?

A: As long as you are going out for a matter related to the preparations for marriage and with the company of her Mahram there is no problem.

Q: Am I allowed to free mix with her mother and sisters?

A: Free mixing with her and mother is allowed as long as a Mahram for them is present but it is not allowed to free mix with her mature sister even in the presence of her Mahram.

Q: Am I allowed to be alone with her in a room?

A: No, its Khalwah and it's Haram (prohibited).

Q: Am I allowed to discuss sex with her?

A: No, it's Haram except in the context of Hukm Shar'ie.

Q: Am I allowed to have entertainment with her?

A: No, It is Haram. Your meet with her parents present strictly to discuss Islam or the preparations for marriage, she is not your friend nor your girl friend!!

Q: Am I allowed to touch her hand, hug her or kiss her?

A: No, It is Haram (prohibited). she is not your friend nor girl friend!!

Q: Am I allowed to speak with her by phone?

A: Yes with her parents permission and the conversation is strictly to discuss Islam or the preparations for marriage.

Q: Am I allowed to give her gifts?

A: It is permissible but it is not refundable if the engagement breaks.

NB: engagement in Islam must be kept secret and if it breaks both parties are forbidden to speak about what they know or saw from each other. My Allah (SWT) help anyone wishing to marry and remember to focus in priority on her Deen and good characters for she is the future mother of your progeny.

**Sheikh Omar**