161289 - Affect of Change of Name on Divorce

the question

I am 24 years old and got married in 2004. I have been trying to conceive since this time and only recently been successful, however, my husband was not happy about this and has decided to leave me because he doesn't want me to have a baby. When he asked me to have an abortion and choose between him and the baby, I chose to keep the baby. So my first question is that was this Islamically the correct choice to make?

Secondly, I have been told that the meaning of my name is not very good so I wanted to change this before the baby was born inshallah in Jan, but my husband said he will also be divorcing me as soon as the baby arrives so will not know that I have changed my name. My question is that if he divorces me in my old name will this be valid? (nikah/marriage contract was read with old name). My last and final question is that the last time I spoke to my husband he said that he doesn't want anything to do with the child and when he/she asks for him tell him/her he is dead. Is this wrong or right? I look forward to hearing back from you and please keep me and my unborn child in your duas (supplications).

Detailed answer

If the matter is as you say, then your husband has made a serious mistake when he thought of getting rid of the child that is his son, with whom his wife became pregnant in a halaal (lawful)manner, so there is no shame on him if this child is born and there is no harm in that and there is nothing wrong with it. If he is worried about provision, Allah has guaranteed it, as He says (interpretation of the meaning):

"And no (moving) living creature is there on earth but its provision is due from Allah. And He knows its dwelling place and its deposit (in the uterus, grave, etc.). All is in a Clear Book (Al-Lauh Al-Mahfooz - the Book of Decrees with Allah)"

[Hood 11:6]

“And do not kill your children for fear of poverty. We provide for them and for you. Indeed, their killing is ever a great sin”

[al-Isra’ 17:31].

Now you have the choice, in sha Allah. If you keep the baby that is in your womb, and beware of doing any harm to him or obeying his father in doing any such thing, perhaps Allah will set things straight and guide him, when he sees his son for real, and he may come back to you better than he was before. But if he insists on what he intends to do of divorcing you, then our hope is that Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, will help you and compensate you with someone who is better than him, for He is Kind and is Able to do that.

With regard to your name, we do not know whether it should really be changed or not, but in general terms the principle is to keep things as they are, unless they have a meaning that is not acceptable in Islam, such as if it is the name of something that is worshipped instead of Allah, e.g., ‘Abd al-‘Uzza (“slave of ‘Uzza (a goddess figure in the Jaahiliyyah/pre-Islamic days of ignorance)”) or ‘Abd al-Maseeh (“slave of the Messiah”) and other names used by people of Jaahiliyyah, or they are names that are forbidden in Islam, or they have bad social meanings. This varies from one language to another and from one environment to another.

If it so happens that you change your name, then your husband divorces you, whether he calls you by your old name or your new name, the divorce is still applicable to you so long as he meant it and addressed it to you.

And Allah knows best.