

6195 - She doesn't know her father's name, so should she take her mother's name?

the question

I read that upon getting married a female should not change her last name to that of her husband because that is like claiming to belong to a family or someone that she doesn't, and that she should keep her father's last name.

I understand that, but what do you do if you don't know your father's last name. Should you keep that name of your mother's family? I currently have my mother's family name. I plan to change my first name to an Islamic name, should I do the same for my last name?

Detailed answer

It is haraam for a person to call himself after anyone other than his father, or after people to whom he does not belong. This was stated in the saheeh hadeeth narrated from Abu Dharr, who heard the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) say: There is no one who knowingly calls himself after someone other than his father, but he is guilty of Kufr

(Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 3371; Muslim, 61).

According to the version narrated by al-Bukhaari: who calls himself after people to whom he does not belong

Falsely attributing a person to people he does not belong to results in violation of the laws of Mahram (close blood ties dictating who is and is not permissible for marriage), inheritance, custody, guardianship in marriage, etc.

With regard to what should be done, we put this question to Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al-Uthaymeen, may Allaah preserve him, who answered as follows:

She cannot take the name of anyone other than her family, and it is not permissible to do so. She has to change her name.

If she does not know her fathers name or family, she can call herself by a general name such as Faatimah bint Abd-Allaah or Faatimah bint Abd al-Rahmaan.

And Allaah knows best.