

## A man's relationship with his divorcee for her children

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

**Question:** I have been married to a man who divorced his first wife with whom he had two children and he remained in touch with her in order to know about the situation of the two children. However, they speak sometimes about things which go beyond the necessary. So, what is the norm that governs the permission of speaking to her? And may Allaah reward you with good.

**Answer:** All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

If the man divorces his wife and the period of `Idda<sup>1</sup> ends, then she will be separated from him, and the things which were permissible for him with her after the conclusion of the marriage contract will not be so, as she will become strange towards him. However, she can speak to him insofar as there is a need to, and by using proper words that do not lead to temptation, without being courteous and without speaking with an appealing voice with the intention of seducing him, in accordance with Allaah's عَزَّ وَجَلَّ saying:

فَلَا تَخْضَعْنَ بِالْقَوْلِ فَيَطْمَعَ الَّذِي فِي قَلْبِهِ مَرَضٌ وَقُلْنَ قَوْلًا مَعْرُوفًا

[be not soft in speech, lest he in whose heart is a disease (of hypocrisy, or evil desire for adultery, etc.) should be moved with desire, but speak in an honourable manner.]<sup>2</sup>

The same applies to the man, thus, it is not permissible for him to seduce her and use the children as a means to temptation and what does not please to Allaah تعالى. He should fear Allaah, because He knows:

خَائِنَةَ الْأَعْيُنِ وَمَا تُخْفِي الصُّدُورُ

[...the fraud of the eyes, and all that the breasts conceal]<sup>3</sup>

And:

مَا تَكُنُّ صُدُورُهُمْ وَمَا يُعْلِنُونَ

[...what their breasts conceal and what they reveal]<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Woman's prescribed retreat or waiting period (after divorce or death of the husband). Translator's note.

<sup>2</sup> Soorah al-Ahzaab [33:32]

<sup>3</sup> Soorah Ghaafir [40:19]

<sup>4</sup> Soorah an-Naml [27:74]

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However, Allaah has given a solution to this situation if the man desires her if she is not separated from him irrevocably (that is to say: he has not divorced her thrice). That is to get married with her as a second wife by a contract, on the condition of being equitable between them as regards shelter and cohabitation, and this, in order to avoid the causes of temptation.

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah عَزَّ وَجَلَّ. Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet, his Family, his Companions and Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

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