

THE PUNJAB MARRIAGE FUNCTIONS ORDINANCE 2015

(VI OF 2016)

CONTENTS

- 1. Short title, extent and commencement**
- 2. Definitions**
- 3. Prohibition of ostentatious celebrations**
- 4. Restriction on edibles**
- 5. Obligation of hotels, restaurants, etc**
- 6. Closing of marriage functions**
- 7. Committees**
- 8. Offence**
- 9. Cognizance of offence**
- 10. Disposal of food and other edibles**
- 11. Rules**
- 12. Repeal**

TEXT

¹THE PUNJAB MARRIAGE FUNCTIONS ORDINANCE 2015

(VI of 2016)

[19th January, 2016]

An

Ordinance

to regulate marriage functions and other related ceremonies.

It is expedient to provide for regulation of marriage functions and other related ceremonies and to make incidental provisions.

Provincial Assembly of the Punjab is not in session and Governor of the Punjab is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action.

In exercise of the powers conferred under clause (1) of Article 128 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Governor of the Punjab is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:

1. Short title, extent and commencement.— (1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Punjab Marriage Functions Ordinance 2015.

(2) It extends to whole of the Punjab.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.— In this Ordinance:

(a) “committee” means a committee constituted under the Ordinance;

(b) “Government” means Government of the Punjab;

(c) “house” means a private residence;

(d) “marriage” includes a ceremony, preceding and succeeding the formal wedding, whether religious or social rituals such as *mayun, mehndi (rasm-e-hina), barat, nikah, rukhsati or walima*;

(e) “one dish” means one *salan*, one rice dish, one salad, hot and cold drinks, *roti, nan* and one sweet dish;

(f) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under the Ordinance; and

¹This Ordinance was promulgated by the Governor Punjab on 3rd January, 2016; and published in the Punjab Gazette (Extraordinary), dated 19th January, 2016, Pages 3463-3466.

(g) “public place” means a club, hotel, restaurant, wedding hall, community center, community park or an open space, a private residence, farmhouse or any other private property hired for a marriage.

3. Prohibition of ostentatious celebrations.— A person celebrating his marriage or organizing the marriage of any other person shall not:

- (a) decorate or cause to be decorated any street, road or public park or any place other than the building, where marriage ceremony is being held, with lights or illumination;
- (b) explode or allow anyone to explode cracker or other explosive device including firing by firearms;
- (c) display or allow anyone to display fireworks;
- (d) display or allow any person to display dowry to the public eye; and
- (e) cause or allow any person to cause nuisance or disturbance to the neighbourhood.

4. Restriction on edibles.— (1) A person celebrating his marriage or organizing the marriage of any other person shall not serve or allow anyone to serve meals or other edibles except one dish to the persons participating in the marriage.

(2) Nothing contained in subsection (1) shall apply to the consumption of meals within the house by the members of the family celebrating the marriage or the guests staying in the house in connection with the marriage.

5. Obligation of hotels, restaurants, etc.— A person owning, managing or running a public place, being the site of marriage, or a caterer shall not serve or allow anyone to serve meals or other edibles to the persons participating in the marriage except as provided in section 4 of the Ordinance.

6. Closing of marriage functions.— A person owning, managing or running a public place, being the site of marriage, shall ensure conclusion of all ceremonies relating to the marriage on or before 10:00 pm.

7. Committees.— (1) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, constitute one or more committees for the enforcement of the provisions of the Ordinance.

(2) The committee constituted under subsection (1) shall perform such functions in such manner as may be prescribed.

8. Offence.— If a person contravenes the provisions of sections 3, 4, 5 or 6, he shall be guilty of an offence punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month and fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees or more than two million rupees.

9. Cognizance of offence.— (1) Subject to this section, an offence under this Ordinance shall be bailable and cognizable on a complaint by an officer notified by the Government.

(2) A magistrate of the first class shall summarily try an offence under this Ordinance in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XXII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898) on the report of the officer notified by the Government.

(3) The Police shall associate an officer notified by the Government while entering a public place where marriage is being held for taking cognizance of an offence under this Ordinance.

10. Disposal of food and other edibles.— The food and other edibles procured, prepared, arranged or set for serving in contravention of this Ordinance shall be forfeited and disposed of in such manner as may be prescribed.

11. Rules.— The Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.

12. Repeal.— The Marriage Functions (Prohibition of Ostentatious Displays and Wasteful Expenses) Ordinance 2000 (II of 2000), in its application to the Province of the Punjab, is hereby repealed.