

Duties of Other Family Members

Other household members should also know that the time and attention of the newly married ones will be divided and previous expectations may have to be changed to suit new circumstances. In joint families, the *namehram* ladies must observe *hijab* if they are not living in a separate house with their husbands.

Decency and Privacy

The Prophet (S) and the Imams (A.S.) have emphasized that when you engage in sexual intercourse, make sure that no child (or, for that matter, any other person) sees you or hears you. Abu Basir quotes Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (A.S.) as follows, *“Be careful not to have sex with your wife while a child can see you. The Prophet (S) used to dislike this (attitude) very strongly.”*¹ If a child sees and hears the parents engaged in sexual intercourse, he might go through a shocking psychological experience. It might also create a problem in his own adult life. Islam has laid down clear guidelines about the privacy of adults. Qur'an gives us the following rules about privacy within the family circles:

1. There are three times in a day: night, early morning and afternoon which are considered as times of privacy.
2. The minor children should be taught that during times of privacy they are not allowed to enter the bedroom of their parents or adults without first asking their permission.
3. At other times, the children are free to come and go into the bedroom of their parents without asking for their permission. In retrospect, this means that the parents should be decently dressed at those other times.
4. As for the mature children and adults, the Qur'an is clear that they may enter the bedroom of their parents or other adults at all times only after asking their permission.

1. Wasa'il ul-Shi'a, vol. 14, p. 94-95

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