APOSTASY: CONSEQUENCES ON MARRIAGE AND THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD

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Research is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Legal Studies (Hons)

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April 2007

The authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given with reference has been made to the works of others.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First and foremost, we would like to express our grateful thanks to our beloved supervisor, Prof. Abdul Halim Sidek, for his endless support, guidance and invaluable comments in the preparation and completion of this research. He has been very supportive and helpful in completing this research.

A special thanks to our respondents who gave their valuable views in answering the survey. Not to forget, the students of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), KUTPM, and Universiti Malaya (UM) for their cooperation.

We would like to extent our gratitude to our parents for their financial support and encouragement given throughout the completion of this research. Heartfelt thanks to our friends, for their assistance in term of technical and opinions.

Last but not least, to our own group members, Mr. Mohd Salehuddin Mohd Salleh, Mr Syahrul Syazwan Salehin, and Ms Sareena Yanti Hassan Sabri for the commitment given to complete this research. Thanks for making this research possible. Thank you so much!
ABSTRACT

This research is conducted for the purpose of reviewing the current law on the effect of apostasy upon marriage and the custody of the child. Besides that, it is conducted to provide a better understanding and awareness regarding these issues in Malaysia. This would be conducted through library research that includes primary and secondary sources as well as interview. The importance of the study is to provide useful legal data and information.
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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

To begin with, the term Apostasy can be easily defined as a Muslim who turns his back or going back to disbelief from Islam or also known generally as "Murtad".\(^1\) Apostasy has been quite a controversial issue as it involves religion, belief and faith of a person. Despite that, apostasy is forbidden strictly in Islam. Hence, few cases take place regarding this matter even though it has been cleared that apostasy is prohibited to be practiced by a Muslim.

Dissolution of marriage, custody of the children, right of the apostate person, and matters regarding the inheritance are some of the problems that arise and need to be considered in handling apostasy cases. This is due to the facts that if one party choose not to follow the spouse from practicing apostasy, first in hand, the marriage in due time will resolve. Moreover, this will lead to more problems regarding the custody of the child and rights of each party over such matters.

Therefore, the objective of this research is basically to examine what are the effects of apostasy upon the marriage and to the custody of the child. Furthermore, every right of the parties involved will be discussed throughout the whole research.