

**SECTION 51(1) OF LAW REFORM (MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE) ACT 1976:
A LEGAL STUDY GOVERNING DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE IN
MALAYSIA ON THE GROUND OF CONVERSION TO ISLAM**

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Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Bachelor of Laws (Hons)

Universiti Teknologi MARA

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December 2014

The students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and the appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The successful completion of this final year project paper is the compilation of efforts, support and guidance from various entities to whom we are utterly grateful. As a group we are extremely fortunate to have plenty of continuous support from all the numerous parties involved until this project paper is completed.

Praise be to Allah s.w.t. for His blessing granted upon us in completing this research. First and foremost, we would like to convey our deepest appreciation to our final year project supervisor, Madam Syuhaeda Aeni Binti Mat Ali for all the guidance, useful comments, support and also patience in helping us to complete our research well. A special thanks to our family who never fail to support us throughout the journey to complete this research either morally or physically.

We would like to give appreciation to our group members, Aina Khalida Binti Ahmad Nuri, Hanis Shakirin Binti Ahmad Saleh, Mohamed Nasharuddin Iskandar Shah Bin Leman and Siti Noorhafisah Binti Bkhairudin, for the support, hardwork and also cooperation throughout the process of finishing this research and make the research journey went smoothly.

We also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our respondents, Dr Nuraisyah Chua Binti Abdullah and also Assistant Professor Dr. Roslina Binti Che Soh for the information and cooperation given to us.

Lastly we would like to apologize for any mistakes made during the course of completing this research paper. All perfection comes from Allah s.w.t. and imperfection comes from us.

Thank you.

ABSTRACT

Malaysia is unique to its core. That is not only an expression Malaysians toss around just to be proud of. This uniqueness we are so proud of is embedded to the core of our constitution, in which unlike any other nation, Malaysia practices a dual justice system, making Malaysia neither a secular nor an Islamic state. To this fact, there exist separate laws, namely Syariah laws and civil laws governing different sector of the nations, coexisting harmoniously since its birth.

However this deemed harmonious coexistence does have loopholes here and there that we aim to study. One such separation deemed to exist is in the matter of marriage and divorce. To this regard there exist different regulations governing both civil and Islamic matters. This separation of laws on the same matter is what the research paper is about.

For the cause of this research paper, section 51 of the Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 has been critically looked into and studied. The section highlights that, in the case of dissolution of marriage by reason of conversion into Islam of one spouse, the unconverted spouse shall have the right to petition for a divorce after the expiration of three months.

The study of this matter is with the hopes that the section can be generally improved and by extension to shine a light for people about other modes of marital dispute resolution other than that encapsulate in section 51 of the Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976.

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