

The second question of Fatwa no. 11580

Q 2: I had a dispute with one of my two wives. As a result, I divorced her. Is the other wife also considered divorced, whether Talaq (divorce pronounced by a husband) has been pronounced during her absence or presence, or does Talaq depend on my intention?

Many people say that the divorce is effective for both wives. All praise be to Allah, I know that Talaq depends on the intention like all other deeds, such as Salah (Prayer), `Umrah (lesser pilgrimage), Hajj, and everything. Many people believe that when a man has more than one wife and he pronounces Talaq, all his wives are divorced. The solution, as people say, is that the husband should deputize another person to divorce the intended wife so as to avoid divorcing them all. Is this true?

Many people hold this belief and I am confused.

A: Only the wife whom you have intended to divorce is divorced and there is no need to deputize another person to divorce your wife on your behalf. In fact, it is permissible for you to divorce your wife and either specify your intention verbally or secretly.

May Allah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

The Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

Member
`Abdullah ibn Ghudayyan

Deputy Chairman
`Abdul-Razzaq `Afify

Chairman
`Abdul-`Aziz ibn `Abdullah ibn Baz