

### Marriage in the Absence of the Parties

Question: Can a marriage take place when the couple are not present? How will this be done?

Answer: Yes, it is permissible and may be carried out as follows:

1. The groom may write to the bride, asking for her hand in marriage. The letter is then to be read out in front of at least two male witnesses. When the bride accepts the proposal in front of them' the marriage is considered done.

2.The bride may also write to the groom, asking to be married to him. Upon receipt of the letter, the groom may summon the witnesses, read the letter to them and indicate that he accepts the proposal. The marriage is now also done.

A representative may be appointed directly (not by letter) and act on behalf of either party and accept the proposal on the party's behalf in front of witnesses.

The bride or groom may appoint a representative by letter, empowering him to act on his/her behalf.

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