

Selected Issues in Family Law

Editor
Nora A. Hak



IIUM PRESS
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

SELECTED ISSUES IN FAMILY LAW

EDITED BY

NORA A. HAK



HUM Press

Published by:

IUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition 2011
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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Selected Issues in Family Law/Nora Abdul Hak
ISBN: 978967-418-226-7

Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysian – MAPIM (Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed by

IUM PRINTING SDN. BHD.
No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3
Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves
Batu Caves Centre Point
68100 Batu Caves
Selangor Darul Ehsan

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CHAPTER 11

PRE-MARITAL GIFT AND ITS POSITION AFTER DIVORCE

By

Norliah Ibrahim

Introduction

Is gift a matrimonial property? The question frequently arise in court in the context of division of matrimonial property between a husband and wife in the course of divorce where couples may fight about these very gifts that were once given in love.¹ A literal reading from the provisions, which emphasize very much on the effort of the parties, would suggest that it may exclude gifts since they are not acquired by the spouses' own efforts.² In other words, the use of the words 'efforts' seems inappropriate to include gifts in a division of matrimonial property upon divorce.³ However, some judges argued that gifts may subject to division upon divorce if it has been substantially improved

¹ <http://www.riversidefamily-divorcelawyer.com/what-are-inter-spousal-gifts/>

² Leong Wai Kum, "Division of matrimonial assets: recent cases and thought for reform", *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies*, (1993) pp 451-400, p. 369.

³ B.C Crown, "Property division on dissolution of marriage", 30 *Malayan Law Review*, (1988), pp. 34-61.
