**1 | Core federal framework (apply country‑wide unless a newer provincial law overrides)**

| **Subject** | **Statute** | **Year** | **What it does** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Muslim marriage, divorce, inheritance, maintenance & registration | **Muslim Family Laws Ordinance** | 1961 | Governs nikāh registration, talaq notice, polygamy permissions, granddaughter inheritance, etc. ([Local Govt. Pakistan](https://lgkp.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Muslim-Family-Laws-Ordinance-1961.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| Muslim women’s right to dissolve marriage | **Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act** | 1939 | Spells out grounds (e.g., 4‑year desertion, impotence, cruelty) for *khula* through court. ([ma-law.org.pk](https://www.ma-law.org.pk/pdflaw/The%20Dissolution%20of%20Muslim%20Marriages%20Act.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| Guardianship & custody of minors | **Guardians and Wards Act** | 1890 | Parent/guardian appointment, removal and powers. Still the parent statute for custody litigation. ([Pakistan Code](https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-cJc%3D-sg-jjjjjjjjjjjjj?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| Family‑court procedure | **(West Pakistan) Family Courts Act** | 1964 | Establishes Family Courts, simplified pleadings, in‑camera hearings; adopted (with amendments) by all provinces. ([ma-law.org.pk](https://www.ma-law.org.pk/pdflaw/The%20West%20Pakistan%20Family%20Courts%20Act%201964.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| Civil marriages (inter‑faith / no‑religion) | **Special Marriage Act** | 1872 | Provides a secular form of marriage and divorce before a Marriage Registrar. ([Pakistan Code](https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-a5s%3D-sg-jjjjjjjjjjjjj?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| Child‑marriage prohibition | **Child Marriage Restraint Act** (federal) + 2016 amendment raising penalties | 1929 / 2016 | Sets minimum age (16 ♀ / 18 ♂ federally; Sindh has 18/18), criminalises solemnisation & aiding of child marriages. ([National Assembly of Pakistan](https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1458813688_951.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| Dowry limits | **Dowry & Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Act** | 1976 | Caps value of dowry/bridal gifts; breach is a criminal offence. ([Pakistan Code](https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-bpuUY2Rp-sg-jjjjjjjjjjjjj?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| Anti‑women harmful practices | **Prevention of Anti‑Women Practices (Criminal Law Amend.) Act** | 2011 | Criminalises forced marriage, *watta‑satta*, deprivation of inheritance, marriage to the Qur’an, etc. ([shrc.org.pk](https://shrc.org.pk/downloads/laws/Pakistan/16-Prevention-of-Anti-Women-Practices-Act-2011.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| “Honour” crimes | **Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offences in the Name or Pretext of Honour) Act** | 2016 | Closes compromise loopholes for honour killings; mandates life imprisonment. ([Punjab Citizen Services مزدوری](https://pcsw.punjab.gov.pk/criminal_law_honour_crimes?utm_source=chatgpt.com) ) |
| Succession for non‑Muslims | **Succession Act** | 1925 | Intestate/testamentary succession and probate. ([revenue.kp.gov.pk](https://revenue.kp.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/The-Succession-Act-1925.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| Application of Muslim personal law to property | **West Pakistan Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act** | 1962 | Subjects agricultural land and some customary estates to Islamic succession. ([Punjab Laws](https://punjablaws.gov.pk/laws/135.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |

**2 | Domestic‑violence & women‑protection statutes (provincial)**

| **Province / ICT** | **Statute** | **Year** | **Status** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sindh** | Domestic Violence (Prevention & Protection) Act | 2013 | In force; rules framed 2016. ([af.org.pk](https://www.af.org.pk/Acts_Fed_Provincial/Sindh_Acts_since_2002/Sindh%20%202013/The%20Domestic%20Violence%20%28Prevention%20and%20Protection%29%20Act%2C%202013.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| **Balochistan** | Domestic Violence (Prevention & Protection) Act | 2014 | In force. ([balochistancode.gob.pk](https://balochistancode.gob.pk/lawdir/a009844f-d396-433d-a3b7-716e69f6e53a.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| **Punjab** | Protection of Women against Violence Act | 2016 | Establishes Violence Against Women Centres & GPS‑bracelets. ([Punjab Laws](https://punjablaws.gov.pk/laws/2634.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** | Domestic Violence Against Women (Prevention & Protection) Act | 2021 | In force. ([KP Code](https://kpcode.kp.gov.pk/uploads/The_Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa_Domestic_Violence_Against_Women_Prevention_and_Protection_Act_2021.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| **Islamabad Capital Territory** | Domestic Violence (Prevention & Protection) **Bill** | 2020 | Passed by National Assembly; referred to Council of Islamic Ideology in 2021, still pending final assent. ([Mohr](https://www.mohr.gov.pk/NewsDetail/ZjRhOTFjNWUtMjk3Ny00Njk5LWE3MGItNmMyNGVjOTAyNDky?utm_source=chatgpt.com), [The Library of Congress](https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2021-08-11/pakistan-domestic-violence-bill-referred-to-council-of-islamic-ideology/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |

**3 | Religious‑community‑specific family statutes**

| **Community** | **Statute** | **Year** | **Key points** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Christians** | Christian Marriage Act 1872 (as amended 2024); Divorce Act 1869 | 1872 / 1869 | Marriage solemnisation & registration; 2024 amendment raises minimum age to 18. Divorce Act governs separation grounds & procedure. ([hrma.punjab.gov.pk](https://hrma.punjab.gov.pk/system/files/CHRISTIAN_MARRIAGE_ACT%2C_1872.doc_.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com), [President of Pakistan](https://www.president.gov.pk/president-signs-christian-marriage-amend-act-2024-into-law-2?utm_source=chatgpt.com), [hrma.punjab.gov.pk](https://hrma.punjab.gov.pk/system/files/THE%20DIVORCE%20ACT%2C1869.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| **Hindus** | Hindu Marriage Act | 2017 | Applies to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists & Jains; covers marriage, divorce, maintenance, legitimacy, guardianship. ([hrma.punjab.gov.pk](https://hrma.punjab.gov.pk/system/files/THE%20HINDU%20MARRIAGE%20ACT%2C%202017.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| **Parsis** | Parsi Marriage & Divorce Act | 1936 | Marriage registration and Parsi Matrimonial Courts. ([Pakistan Code](https://pakistancode.gov.pk/english/UY2FqaJw1-apaUY2Fqa-b56a-sg-jjjjjjjjjjjjj?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |
| **Sikhs (Punjab only)** | Punjab Sikh Anand Karaj Marriage Act | 2018 | Recognises *Anand Karaj* marriages; 2024 rules notified for registration. ([Punjab Laws](https://punjablaws.gov.pk/laws/2698.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) |

**4 | Other frequently‑used ancillary statutes**

* **Muslim Family Ordinance Rules 1961** – subordinate rules under MFLO for nikāh & talaq registration.
* **Family Courts Rules 1965** – procedural rules framed by each High Court under the 1964 Act.
* **Guardian & Wards (West Pakistan Amendment) Ordinance 1962** – tweaks to jurisdiction/appeals.
* **Criminal Law (Third Amendment) Act 2011** – inserts §498A‑C into Penal Code (forced eviction, forced marriage, deprivation of inheritance). ([National Assembly of Pakistan](https://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1329729400_262.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com))

**How to use this list**

1. **Check your province** first: procedural time‑lines (e.g., appeal periods) and protection‑order formats are set by provincial rules under the federal skeleton Acts.
2. **Identify personal‑status**: Muslim‐majority matters will often start under MFLO 1961 + Family Courts Act 1964; non‑Muslim communities must plead under their own Acts (Hindu 2017, Christian 1872/1869, Sikh 2018, Parsi 1936).
3. **Layer criminal protections** where relevant—especially domestic‑violence statutes and the Anti‑Women / Honour‑Crime amendments—to seek simultaneous relief (e.g., protection order + bail cancellation).
4. **Watch for new federal moves**: the Islamabad DV Bill and a proposed nationwide *Christian Divorce (Modernisation) Bill* are both on the parliamentary docket for 2025; rules may shift.

*This catalogue should give you a 360° statutory map; always pull the latest gazette copy before filing or advising.*