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#### The Fourth Question from Fatwa no. 8924

**Q: When a baby is born, the father calls one of the shaykhs to foretell the newborn's future and to name it. If a suggested name suits the baby's future, the shaykh will be silent, otherwise he will ask for it to be changed, and it often happens that people here end up with multiple names. It is authentically related that the Prophet (peace be upon him) ordered some offensive names to be changed; if a name is not offensive, is it permissible to change it?**

**A: Firstly:** It is not permissible to foretell the future; it is regarded a type of soothsaying. It is also not permissible to change a name if it does not suit a baby's future, as this involves believing in soothsaying and what soothsayers do.

**Secondly:** It is permissible to change offensive names, following the example of the Prophet (peace be upon him). There is also no harm in changing them even if they are not offensive, if it is not connected with its suitability for child's future or any other similar reason, provided that it does not lead to the loss of anyone's rights.

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

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