



# Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977

## 1977 CHAPTER 15

### PERSONS WHO MAY SOLEMNISE MARRIAGE

#### 8 Persons who may solemnise marriage.

- (1) [<sup>F1</sup>Subject to section 23A of this Act,] a marriage may be solemnised by and only by—
- (a) a person who is—
    - (i) a minister [<sup>F2</sup>or deacon] of the Church of Scotland; or
    - (ii) a minister, clergyman, pastor, or priest of a religious body prescribed by regulations made by the Secretary of State, or who, not being one of the foregoing, is recognised by a religious body so prescribed as entitled to solemnise marriages on its behalf; or
    - (iii) registered under section 9 of this Act; or
    - (iv) temporarily authorised under section 12 of this Act; or
  - (b) a person who is a district registrar or assistant registrar appointed under section 17 of this Act.
- (2) In this Act—
- (a) any such person as is mentioned in subsection (1)(a) above is referred to as an “approved celebrant”, and a marriage solemnised by an approved celebrant is referred to as a “religious marriage”;
  - (b) any such person as is mentioned in subsection (1)(b) above is referred to as an “authorised registrar”, and a marriage solemnised by an authorised registrar is referred to as a “civil marriage”.

#### Textual Amendments

**F1** Words inserted (*retrospectively*) by [Law Reform \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) \(Scotland\) Act 1980](#) (c. 55, SIF 36:3), s. 22(1)(b)(2)

**F2** Words in s. 8(1)(a)(i) inserted (21.5.2014) by [Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) (asp 5), ss. 20, 36; S.S.I. 2014/121, art. 2(c)

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 21/05/2014.

**Changes to legislation:**

Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977, Persons who may solemnise marriage is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.