



Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977

1977 CHAPTER 15

PERSONS WHO MAY SOLEMNISE MARRIAGE

8 Persons who may solemnise marriage.

- (1) [^{F1}Subject to section 23A of this Act,] a marriage may be solemnised by and only by—
- (a) a person who is—
 - (i) a minister [^{F2}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Point in time view as at 21/05/2014. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation:

Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977, Section 8 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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.