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# Marriage Act 1949

## CHAPTER 76

### MARRIAGE ACT 1949

#### PART I

##### RESTRICTIONS ON MARRIAGE

- 1 Marriages within prohibited degrees.
- 2 Marriages of persons under sixteen.
- 3 Marriages of persons under twenty-one.
- 4 Hours for solemnization of marriages.

#### PART II

##### MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO RITES OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

###### *Preliminary*

- 5 Methods of authorising marriages.
- 5A Marriages between certain persons related by affinity.

###### *Marriage by banns*

- 6 Place of publication of banns.
- 7 Time and manner of publication of banns.
- 8 Notice to clergyman before publication of banns.
- 9 Persons by whom banns may be published.
- 10 Publication of banns commenced in one church and completed in another.
- 11 Certificates of publication of banns.
- 12 Solemnization of marriage after publication of banns.
- 13 Publication of banns in Scotland, Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland.

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- 14 Publication of banns on board His Majesty's ships.

*Marriage by Common Licence*

- 15 Places in which marriages may be solemnized by common licence.  
16 Provisions as to common licences.

*Marriage under superintendent registrar's certificate*

- 17 Marriage under superintendent registrar's certificate.

*Publication of banns and solemnization of marriages during disuse of churches*

- 18 Publication of banns and solemnization of marriages during repair and rebuilding of churches.  
19 Publication of banns and solemnization of marriage where church injured by war damage.

*Licensing of chapels for publication of banns and solemnization of marriages*

- 20 Licensing of chapels for publication of banns and solemnization of marriages for persons residing in specified district.  
21 Authorising of publication of banns and solemnization of marriages in churches and chapels of extra-parochial places.

*Miscellaneous Provisions*

- 22 Witnesses.  
23 Benefices held in plurality.  
24 Proof of residence not necessary to validity of marriage by banns or common licence.  
25 Void marriages.

**PART III**

**MARRIAGE UNDER SUPERINTENDENT REGISTRAR'S CERTIFICATE**

*Issue of certificates*

- 26 Marriages which may be solemnized on authority of superintendent registrar's certificate.  
27 Notice of marriage.  
27A Additional information required in certain cases.  
27B Provisions relating to section 1(3) marriages.  
27C Provisions relating to section 1(5) marriages.  
28 Declaration to accompany notice of marriage.  
28A Power to require evidence.  
29 Caveat against issue of certificate or licence.  
30 Forbidding of issue of certificate.  
31 Marriage under certificate without licence.  
31A Appeal on refusal under section 31(2)(a).  
32 Marriage under certificate by licence.  
33 Period of validity of certificate and licence.  
34 Marriages normally to be solemnized in registration district in which one of parties resides.  
35 Marriages in registration district in which neither party resides.

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- 36 Superintendent registrar not normally to issue licences for marriages in registered buildings outside his district.
- 37 One party resident in Scotland.
- 38 One party resident in Northern Ireland.
- 39 Issue of certificates on board His Majesty's ships.
- 40 Forms of certificates to be furnished by Registrar General.

*Marriages in registered buildings*

- 41 Registration of buildings.
- 42 Cancellation of registration and substitution of another building.
- 43 Appointment of authorised persons.
- 44 Solemnization of marriage in registered building.

*Marriages in register offices*

- 45 Solemnization of marriage in register office.
- 45A Solemnization of certain marriages.
- 46 Register office marriage followed by religious ceremony.

*Marriages on approved premises*

- 46A Approval of premises.
- 46B Solemnization of marriage on approved premises.

*Marriages according to usages of Society of Friends*

- 47 Marriages according to usages of Society of Friends.

*Miscellaneous Provisions*

- 48 Proof of certain matters not necessary to validity of marriages.
- 49 Void marriages.
- 50 Person to whom certificate to be delivered.
- 51 Fees of registrars for attending marriages.
- 52 Provision for marriages in Welsh language.

**PART IV**

REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES

- 53 Persons by whom marriages are to be registered.
- 54 Provision of marriage register books by Registrar General.
- 55 Manner of registration of marriages.
- 56 Power to ask for particulars of marriage.
- 57 Quarterly returns to be made to superintendent registrar.
- 58 Quarterly returns to be made by superintendent registrar to Registrar General.
- 59 Custody of register books.
- 60 Filled register books.
- 61 Correction of errors in register book.
- 62 Disposal of register books on church ceasing to be used for solemnization of marriages.
- 63 Searches in register books.
- 64 Searches of indexes kept by superintendent registrars.
- 65 Searches of indexes kept by Registrar General.

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- 66 Sending documents by post.
- 67 Interpretation of Part IV.

## PART V

### MARRIAGES IN NAVAL, MILITARY, AND AIR FORCE CHAPELS

- 68 Solemnization of marriages in naval, military, and air force chapels.
- 69 Licensing of chapels for marriages according to rites of Church of England.
- 70 Registration of chapels for marriages otherwise than according to rites of Church of England.
- 71 Evidence of marriages under Part V.

## PART VI

### GENERAL

- 72 Supplementary provisions as to marriages in usual places of worship.
- 73 Lists of licensed chapels and registered buildings.
- 74 Regulations.
- 75 Offences relating to solemnization of marriages.
- 76 Offences relating to registration of marriages.
- 77 Offences by authorised persons.
- 78 Interpretation.
- 79 Repeals and savings.
- 80 Short title, extent and commencement.

## SCHEDULES

### FIRST SCHEDULE — Kindred and Affinity

#### Part I

#### *Prohibited degrees of relationship*

#### Part II

#### *Degrees of affinity referred to in section 1(2) and (3) of this Act*

#### Part III

#### *Degrees of affinity referred to in section 1(4) and (5) of this Act*

### SECOND SCHEDULE — Consents required to the Marriage of a child by common licence or Superintendent Registrar's certificate

### THIRD SCHEDULE —

### FOURTH SCHEDULE — Provisions of Act which are excluded or modified in their application to Naval, Military and Air Force Chapels

- Part I — EXCLUSION OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO MARRIAGES ACCORDING TO THE RITES OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
- Part II — MODIFICATION OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO MARRIAGES ACCORDING TO THE RITES OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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Part III — EXCLUSION OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO MARRIAGES  
OTHERWISE THAN ACCORDING TO THE RITES OF THE CHURCH OF  
ENGLAND

Part IV — MODIFICATION OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO MARRIAGES  
OTHERWISE THAN ACCORDING TO THE RITES OF THE CHURCH OF  
ENGLAND

FIFTH SCHEDULE — Enactments repealed  
Part I

*Acts of Parliament repealed*

Part

II. ....

SIXTH SCHEDULE — Provisions of Act which do not extend to Wales

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