
CHAPTER 171**ISLANDERS' MARRIAGE****ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

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CHAPTER 171

ISLANDERS' MARRIAGE

AN ACT RELATING TO THE MARRIAGE OF ISLANDERS

[31st October 1945]

4 of 1945
5 of 1945
5 of 1946
6 of 1946
6 of 1967
8 of 1967
4 of 1968
8 of 1974
LN 69 of 1975
LN 46A of 1978
LN 88 of 1978

1. This Act may be cited as the Islanders' Marriage Act.

Short title

2. In this Act—

“District Registrar” means the District Officer or other person duly authorised to perform the duties of District Registrar under this Act;

Interpretation
8 of 1967, s. 84
LN 46A of 1978
LN 88 of 1978

“minister of religion” means a minister of religion, priest and other person who is registered under the Births, Marriages and Deaths Registration Act.

Cap. 168

PART I

MARRIAGE

3. Magistrates of the Districts constituted under the provisions of the Magistrates' Courts Act shall be the District Registrars in their respective Districts:

Appointment of District Registrars
LN 46A of 1978
Cap. 20

Provided that when there is no Magistrate in any District, the Minister shall by writing under his hand appoint some fit and proper person to perform the duties of District Registrar.

4. No marriage between Islanders celebrated after the coming into operation of this Act, save and except a marriage celebrated in accordance with the custom of Islanders or in accordance with the provisions of the Pacific Islands Civil Marriages Order in Council 1907, shall be valid unless celebrated—

Valid marriage
8 of 1974, Sched

SI 1907, No. 543

(a) before a minister of religion; or

(b) before a District Registrar.

5.—(1) (a) Before a marriage may be celebrated by a minister of religion, written notice of the intended marriage, and of the date of such intended marriage, in the language spoken by the

Marriage before a minister of religion

parties thereto, and signed by the minister in charge of the church in which such marriage is to be celebrated, shall be posted prominently on a notice board set aside for the purpose in such church. Such notice shall be posted at least three weeks before the date of such intended marriage, and shall remain on the notice board until the celebration of the marriage or until the expiration of three months from the date of the notice, whichever shall first happen.

(b) Every minister of religion shall keep a register in which shall be recorded the names and particulars of the parties in respect of whom notice has been given, and he shall also record therein the dates on which notice was so given.

(c) If, for any reason, the marriage be not celebrated within three months from the day on which the last notice shall have been given as required by paragraph (a) hereof, fresh notice must be given in the manner hereinbefore set out.

(2) (a) Whenever any Islanders desire to be married before a District Registrar one of the parties to the intended marriage shall sign and give to the Registrar a notice in the Form A in the First Schedule hereto.

(b) If the party giving such notice is unable to write or is insufficiently acquainted with the English language it shall be sufficient if he places his mark or cross thereto in the presence of some literate person who shall attest the mark or cross as the case may be. This attestation shall be in the Form B in the First Schedule hereto.

(c) On receipt of such notice, the District Registrar shall cause the particulars thereof to be entered in a book to be called the Islanders' Marriage Notice Book", which may be inspected during office hours without fee, and he shall publish such notice by causing a copy thereof to be posted up in a conspicuous place on the outer wall of his office until the marriage is celebrated.

(3) The District Registrar may celebrate the marriage at any time after the expiration of twenty-one days and before the expiration of three months from the date of such notice:

Provided that if the marriage be not celebrated within three months of the date of such notice the notice shall be void, and fresh notice must be given before the parties can lawfully marry.

Marriage before
District Registrar
8 of 1974, Sched
First Schedule
Form A

Form B

6.—(1) No marriage shall be celebrated by a minister of religion or a District Registrar until each of the parties to the intended marriage shall have made and signed a declaration in Form C in the First Schedule hereto before the minister or District Registrar celebrating the marriage:

Provided that if the declarant is unable to write, he may, instead of signing the declaration, affix his mark or cross thereto.

(2) Whenever a marriage is celebrated by a minister of religion, there shall be affixed to the declaration adhesive postage stamps to the value of twenty cents; and such declaration, duly stamped, shall be forwarded by the minister to the District Registrar when the copy of the marriage certificate is forwarded by him.

7. The presence of two witnesses at least shall be necessary for the due celebration of a marriage before a minister of religion or a District Registrar; and immediately upon celebration, the minister of religion or the District Registrar, as the case may be, together with the witnesses and the parties shall sign in duplicate a certificate in the Form D in the First Schedule hereto, and one copy of such certificate shall be handed to one of the parties to the marriage.

8. A marriage by a minister of religion shall be celebrated in the church in which notice of the intended marriage was given, and shall be celebrated between the hours of 6 o'clock in the forenoon and 6.30 o'clock in the afternoon.

9. A marriage before a District Registrar shall be celebrated in his office, with open doors, between the hours of 10 o'clock in the forenoon and 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and in the following manner—

The District Registrar, having satisfied himself that the formalities precedent to marriage prescribed by this Act have been complied with, shall, either directly or through an interpreter, address the parties thus:

“Do I understand that you A.B. and you C.D., have come here for the purpose of being made man and wife?”

If the parties answer in the affirmative, he shall proceed as follows:—

“Know ye that by the public taking of each other as man and wife in my presence, and in the presence of the persons now here, and by the subsequent attestation thereof by

Declaration
precedent to
marriage

First Schedule
Form C

Witnesses
required

First Schedule
Form D

Place and time of
marriage before
a minister of
religion

Place, time and
form of marriage
before a
Registrar

signing your names to that effect, you become legally married to each other, although no other rite of a civil or religious nature shall take place, and that this marriage cannot be dissolved during your lifetime except by a valid judgment of divorce; and if either of you before the death of the other shall contract another marriage while this remains undissolved, you will be thereby guilty of bigamy, and liable to punishment for that offence." Each of the parties shall then say to the other, "I call upon all persons here present to witness that I, A.B., do take thee, C.D., to be my lawful wife (or husband)."

Age of parties
and consents
6 of 1967, Sched
8 of 1974, Sched

10.—(1) No marriage shall be celebrated under this Act unless it has been established to the satisfaction of the minister of religion or District Registrar that each of the parties has attained the age of fifteen years.

(2) Any Islander knowing himself or herself to be under the age of fifteen years who contracts a marriage before a minister of religion or District Registrar, and any minister of religion or District Registrar who knowingly celebrates the marriage of an Islander under the age of fifteen years, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable to a fine of one hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months.

(3) No Islander (not being a widower or widow) under the age of eighteen years may be married without the written consent of the father, or if he be dead or of unsound mind or absent from the district, of the mother, or if both be dead or of unsound mind or absent from the district, of the guardian of such Islander:

Provided, however, that where such Islander has no father, mother, or guardian, a Judge or Magistrate may, if satisfied after due inquiry that the application to marry is a proper one, give such consent.

(4) If the person required to sign such consent is unable to write or is insufficiently acquainted with the English language, or both, he shall sign such consent by placing his mark or cross thereto, in the presence of a Judge, Magistrate, District Registrar or minister of religion and such signature shall be attested by such person in the Form B in the First Schedule hereto.

From B
First Schedule

Objection to
marriage
8 of 1984, Sched

11.—(1) When two Islanders desire to contract a marriage before a minister of religion or District Registrar and notice of such intended marriage has been given, any person whose consent to a marriage is required, or who may know of any just

cause why the marriage should not take place, may give notice, either orally or in writing, to the minister of religion or the District Registrar, as the case may be, stating the reasons why he objects to such marriage being celebrated.

(2) On receipt of such notice, the minister of religion or District Registrar shall cause the word "forbidden" to be entered in the register or Islanders' marriage notice book as the case may be, and shall make full inquiry as to the genuineness or otherwise of the objection to the marriage.

(3) If the minister of religion or District Registrar is satisfied that no objection exists he shall cancel the word "forbidden" and make and sign an entry in the register or Islanders' marriage notice book to the effect that after investigation the objection was not sustained, and the marriage may then be celebrated as if no objection thereto had been made.

(4) If, on investigation, the objection is found to be a valid one an entry to that effect, duly signed, shall be made in the register or Islanders marriage notice book, and the marriage shall not be celebrated.

(5) Any person who, without sufficient and proper cause, wilfully gives notice of objection to a marriage shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable to a fine of twenty dollars, and in default of payment, to imprisonment for two months.

12. Any person who, not being duly authorised thereto by law, celebrates any marriage shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable to a fine of one hundred dollars, and in default of payment to imprisonment for six months.

Penalty for
celebrating
marriage without
being authorised

13. Every marriage certificate duly filed, and every copy of a certificate of marriage purporting to be signed and certified as a true copy by a District Registrar, and every entry in any District Marriage Register or a copy thereof signed and certified as aforesaid shall be admissible in any Court as evidence of the marriage to which it relates.

Evidence of
marriage

14. Any Islander, other than an Islander married in accordance with the custom of Islanders whose marriage has not been registered under section 18 of this Act, who being married under this Act shall marry any other person, whether under this Act or under the Pacific Islands Civil Marriages Order in Council 1907, or by the custom of Islanders, commits bigamy and shall be liable to imprisonment for five years.

Bigamy
6 of 1967, Sched
8 of 1974, Sched

SI 1907, No. 543

PART II

REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES

Registration of
marriage before
minister

15.—(1) Whenever after the commencement of this Act a marriage is celebrated by a minister of religion he shall, within one month thereafter or by the first opportunity, whichever shall be the later, transmit the second copy of the certificate referred to in section 7 to the District Registrar of the District in which the marriage was celebrated.

First Schedule
Form E

(2) On the receipt of such certificate the District Registrar shall enter the particulars thereof in a book to be kept for the purpose to be called "The District Marriage Register", which book shall be in the Form E in the First Schedule hereto, and he shall file the certificate.

Penalty for
failure to
forward
certificate for
registration

16. Any minister of religion who fails to forward the certificate of marriage to the District Registrar within the time prescribed by the immediately preceding section shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable to a fine of fifty dollars.

Registration of
marriage before
a District
Registrar

17. Whenever a marriage is celebrated by a District Registrar he shall, after entering the particulars thereof in the District Marriage Register, file the second copy of the certificate referred to in section 7.

Voluntary
registration of
marriages in
accordance with
custom
8 of 1974, Sched

18.—(1) Any Islanders who have contracted a marriage in accordance with the custom of Islanders may apply to the District Registrar of the District in which they reside to have the marriage registered under this Act.

First Schedule
Form F

(2) Each of the parties to such marriage shall make a declaration before the District Registrar in the Form F in the First Schedule hereto.

(3) On the completion of such declaration the District Registrar shall register the marriage in the District Marriage Register.

Effect of
voluntary
registration
8 of 1974, Sched

19.—(1) When any marriage is registered in accordance with section 18, each party to the marriage shall for the purposes of the law of divorce be in the same position as though such marriage had been celebrated under the provisions of this Act.

(2) If during the continuance of such marriage either party thereto shall contract another marriage, whether under this Act or

under the Pacific Islands Civil Marriages Order in Council 1907 or according to the custom of Islanders, such party shall be guilty of bigamy and liable to punishment therefor.

SI 1907, No. 543

20. Every District Registrar shall, at the end of every quarter, forward to the Minister a return giving particulars of all marriages registered by him during the quarter, and on receipt of such return the Minister shall cause such particulars to be entered in a Central Register.

Central Register
LN 46A of 1978

21. The District Registrar shall, at all times during office hours, allow searches to be made in the District Marriage Register, and upon payment of the prescribed fee shall give certified copies therefrom.

Search of
Marriage
Registers

PART III

GENERAL

22. Any person who makes a false declaration for any of the purposes of this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine of one hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months.

Penalty for false
declaration

23. The Minister may prescribe the fees to be paid under this Act:

Fees
LN 46A of 1978

Provided that the fees contained in the Second Schedule hereto shall be the prescribed fees until altered, amended, revoked or added to by the Minister.

24. The Minister may make such rules as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act

Rules
4 of 1968, Sched
LN 46A of 1978

FIRST SCHEDULE

SOLOMON ISLANDS
ISLANDERS' MARRIAGE ACT
FORM A
(Section 5 (2) (a))

To the District Registrar at

I hereby give you notice that a marriage is intended to be celebrated within three months of the date hereof between me, the undersigned, and the other party herein named.

| Name | Condition. | Occupation, Rank or Profession. | Age | Dwelling or place of abode | Consent, if any, and by whom given |
|------|------------|---------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | |

Witness my hand this _____ day of _____, 19 _____

(Signature)

SOLOMON ISLANDS
ISLANDERS' MARRIAGE ACT
FORM B
(Section 5 (2) (b))
Form of Attestation

Signed by the said _____, at _____ on the _____ day of _____, 19 _____, this notice [or consent as the case may be] having been first read over to him (her) (and truly interpreted to him (her)) in the _____ language by _____. He (She) seemed to understand the nature and purport thereof and made his (her) mark thereto, in my presence.

Signed _____

SOLOMON ISLANDS
ISLANDERS' MARRIAGE ACT
FORM C
(Section 6 (1))

I, A.B., of _____, do solemnly and sincerely declare that I believe there is no impediment or lawful objection by reason of any kindred or relationship, any former marriage, or want of consent of parents or guardians, or any other lawful cause, to my being married to C.D. of _____, daughter of E.F. of _____

(Signature (or mark) of A.B.)

And I, the said C.D., do solemnly and sincerely declare that I believe there is no impediment or lawful objection by any such reason or other lawful cause, as aforesaid, to my being married to the said A.B.

(Signature (or mark) of C.D.)

Declared by both the parties above named at this _____ day of _____, 19 _____, before me.

(Signature of Minister of Religion or District Registrar)

SOLOMON ISLANDS
ISLANDERS' MARRIAGE ACT
FORM D
(Section 7)

Certificate of Marriage

| | Date when married | Names and Surnames | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name and Surname | Occupation or rank of Father |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Name of Husband | | | | | | | | |
| Name of Wife | | | | | | | | |

Married at _____ by me, due notice having been given in accordance with the Islanders' Marriage Act

District Registrar
Minister of Religion

This marriage was celebrated between us }

In the presence of us }

Witnesses

SOLOMON ISLANDS
ISLANDERS' MARRIAGE ACT
FORM E
(Section 15 (2))
District Marriage Register

| When married | Names and Surnames | How married | Age | Condition | Residence | Father's Name and Occupation |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-----|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| | | | | | | |

Entered this _____ day of _____, 19____, at the District Registry Office at _____

District Registrar

SOLOMON ISLANDS
ISLANDERS' MARRIAGE ACT
FORM F
(Section 18 (2))

Declaration by Person Married in accordance with Custom of Islanders.

I, _____ of _____ do solemnly and sincerely declare that I was married to _____ of _____ on the _____ day of _____, 19____, at _____ in accordance with custom of Islanders.

I do further solemnly and sincerely declare that _____ is the only person to whom I am married by custom of Islanders or otherwise, and I do lastly declare that I do not intend to marry any other person during the lifetime of the said _____ unless the marriage is dissolved by a valid judgment of a competent Court.

Declared by the said _____ this _____ day of _____, 19____, before me.

District Registrar

SECOND SCHEDULE

LN 69 of 1975

FEES
(Section 23)

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Filing Notice of Marriage with District Registrar | ... | ... | ... | \$ |
| On issue of certified copy of Certificate | ... | ... | ... | 2.00 |
| Certifying any extract from a District Marriage Register | ... | ... | ... | 2.00 |

(No Subsidiary Legislation)