

CYPRUS

MARRIAGE

CHAPTER 279 OF THE LAWS

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1959

CHAPTER 279.

MARRIAGE.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

Section	Page
1 Short title	2
2 Interpretation	3
3 Marriage Officers	3
4 Registration of ministers	3
5 Names of registered ministers to be published	4
6 Notice of intended marriage	4
7 Notice to be filed and published	4
8 Certificate to be issued by Marriage Officer	4
9 When notice void	4
10 Special licences	5
11 Declaration of parties that no impediment	5
12 Consent of parent or guardians	5
13 If no parent or guardian then of Chief Justice	5
14 Forbidding issue of certificate	5
15 Question as to right to forbid referred to Chief Justice	6
16 Marriages to be celebrated by Registered Minister or Marriage Officer	6
17 Ceremony by Marriage Officer	6
18 Certificate of marriage	6
19 Marriage certificate to be registered	7
20 Certified copies to be evidence	7
21 What marriages invalid	7
Proviso Marriage in <i>articulo mortis</i>	7
22 False statements	8
23 Officiating in contravention of Law	8
24 Failing to transmit certificate	8
25 Defacing notices	8
26 Forging certificates	8
27 Officiating without being qualified	8
28 Jurisdiction	8
29 Fees	9
30 Remitment of fees	9
31 Forms to be provided by Administrative Secretary	9
32 Marriage Officers to supply forms	9
33 British subjects in Cyprus and in the United Kingdom	9
34 Law not to apply to Turks professing the Moslem faith	9
35 Solemnization of Greek-Orthodox marriages outside Cyprus	9
36 Application of Law to Greek-Orthodox Church	10
37 Repeal	10
FIRST SCHEDULE.	
Forms A, B, C, D	10
SECOND SCHEDULE.	
Fees	12

1949
Cap. 116.
9 of 52.
37 of 54.

TO AMEND AND CONSOLIDATE THE LAW RELATING TO
MARRIAGE.

[16th June, 1923.]

Short title.

1. This Law may be cited as the Marriage Law.

2. In this Law—

Interpre-
tation.

“ Marriage Officer ” means a person appointed to be a Marriage Officer for the purposes of this Law;

“ Registered Minister ” means a minister of religion who is registered under the provisions of this Law:

Provided that any minister of the Greek-Orthodox Church shall, when celebrating any marriage the parties to which are not both members of the Greek-Orthodox Church, be deemed to be a Registered Minister for the purposes of this Law. 5 of 3/37.

3. The Governor may, for the purposes of this Law, from time to time appoint for each district of the Colony such number of Marriage Officers as he thinks fit, and may remove any such Marriage Officer. Until the Governor shall otherwise provide, every Commissioner shall be a Marriage Officer for his district. Marriage Officers.

4. The Administrative Secretary upon receiving a requisition in writing in the name of any accredited or recognized minister of any Christian or Jewish Church, denomination or body, ordinarily officiating as such, under the hand of such minister, and of the recognized head of the denomination to which he belongs (such writing specifying his religious denomination and designation, and his residence, and desiring that his name may be registered as a minister for celebrating marriages), shall forthwith, without fee, register the name of such minister with the foregoing particulars in a register book to be kept by him for that purpose: Registration of ministers.

Provided always that if for any serious or notorious cause the Governor desires to exclude any minister so applying from being registered as a minister for celebrating marriages or to remove the name of any minister from the register after he has been so registered he shall refer the matter in the first place to the recognized head of the denomination to which such minister belongs and if the recognized head of such denomination as aforesaid does not agree to such exclusion or removal the matter shall be referred to the Administrative Secretary for final decision, and pending his decision no step shall be taken to remove any such minister and a minister for whose inclusion in the register a requisition as aforesaid has been made shall be provisionally registered. 2 of 19/25.

Names of
registered
ministers to
be published.

5. The Administrative Secretary shall publish in the Gazette, within one month after receiving the same, the name of every minister which shall have been sent to him, in the manner and containing the particulars in that behalf aforesaid, and which shall have been by him registered accordingly; and he shall further, in the month of January in every year, publish in the Gazette the names of all ministers then duly registered with their designations, denominations and residences.

Notice of
intended
marriage.

6. Whenever any person desires to contract a marriage in the Colony, each of the parties to the intended marriage shall, under his or her hand, give notice thereof to a Marriage Officer of the district wherein such party has his or her abode; such notice shall be as near as may be in the form A in the First Schedule hereto, and shall be signed by the person by whom it is given.

First
Schedule.

Notice to be
filed and
published.

7. The Marriage Officer to whom such notice is addressed shall file the same in his office, and shall enter a copy thereof, with the date of entry, in a book to be kept by him for that purpose (which book shall be open to inspection by any person during office hours), and shall cause a copy or copies of such notice to be posted in some public place or places in the town or village in which either or both of the parties to the intended marriage reside, and to remain so posted until he shall issue a certificate in respect of such intended marriage as hereinafter provided, or until the expiration of three months from the date of the notice; and if either of the parties to the intended marriage is a subject of a foreign government having a Consul in Cyprus, the Marriage Officer shall forward to the Cyprus Consulate of such Government a certified copy of the notice of marriage.

Certificate
to be issued
by Marriage
Officer.

8. At any time not more than three months nor less than fifteen days after the giving of such notice, the Marriage Officer receiving the same, or some other Marriage Officer of the same district, shall, on the request of the party to the intended marriage, giving the notice, give to him or her a certificate, as near as may be in the form B in the First Schedule, unless the issue of such certificate has been forbidden in the manner hereinafter provided by some person hereby authorized to forbid it.

First
Schedule.

When notice
void.

9. If the marriage does not take place within three months after giving the above notices the notices given, and all proceedings consequent thereupon, shall be void.

10. The Governor may, in case of an intended marriage, when he sees fit, grant a special licence as near as may be in the form C in the First Schedule, dispensing with notices or certificates, or both, and authorizing the celebration of marriage between the parties named in the special licence at any time or place therein specified.

Special
licences.

First
Schedule.

11. Before a Marriage Officer issues any certificate the person applying for the certificate to the intended marriage shall appear personally before him, and before the Governor grants any special licence, each of the parties to the intended marriage shall appear personally before such person as the Governor shall appoint for that purpose, and in either case make a declaration on oath or solemn affirmation (which the Marriage Officer and every person appointed by the Governor to take such declaration is hereby empowered to administer or receive) that he or she knows of no impediment or lawful hindrance to the marriage, and either that the consent of the parties required by this Law to consent to the marriage has been obtained, or that no such consent is required. Every such declaration shall be reduced to writing and be signed by the person making it.

Declaration
of parties
that no
impediment.

12. If either party to the intended marriage, not being a widower or a widow, is under twenty-one years of age, the written consent of the father, or, if he be dead or incapable of consenting, of the mother, or, if both be dead or incapable of consenting, of the lawful guardian of such party, must be produced to the Marriage Officer before he issues a certificate or to the Governor before he grants a licence.

Consent of
parents or
guardians.

13. If there be no parent or guardian of such party residing in the Colony and capable of consenting, the Chief Justice may, on the application of the person applying for the certificate, give his consent in writing to the marriage if, upon inquiry the marriage appears to him to be proper. Such consent shall be as effectual for the purposes of this Law as if it had been the consent of the father, mother or guardian.

If no parent
or guardian
then of Chief
Justice.

14. Any person whose consent is required as aforesaid may forbid the issue of the Marriage Officer's certificate by serving on the Marriage Officer notice in writing setting forth his or her name, occupation and address, and the character in which he or she forbids the issue of the certificate.

Forbidding
issue of
certificate.