

MATRIMONIAL CAUSES

Table of Contents

Page

Principal

Matrimonial Causes Act 1973

Table of Provisions	1189
Table of Amendments	1191
Matrimonial Causes Act 1973	1193

Subsidiary

Matrimonial Causes Rules 1974

Table of Provisions	1223
Table of Amendments	1227
Matrimonial Causes Rules 1974	1229

Matrimonial Causes Act 1973

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

Section

Title

PART 1 — PRELIMINARY

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Short title and commencement |
| 2 | Interpretation |
| 3 | Proceedings in matrimonial causes to be in the Family Court |

PART 2 — DIVORCE

- | | |
|----|---|
| 4 | Restrictions on divorce petitions within 3 years of marriage |
| 5 | Divorce not precluded by previous judicial separation |
| 6 | Joinder of other parties |
| 7 | No order to be made against additional party except for costs |
| 8 | Breakdown of marriage to be sole ground for divorce |
| 9 | Proof of breakdown of marriage |
| 10 | Proof in certain circumstances |
| 11 | Evidence in divorce suits |
| 12 | Provisions designed to encourage reconciliation |
| 13 | Decree of divorce generally to be decree nisi in first instance |
| 14 | Decree to be refused in certain circumstances |
| 15 | Power to rescind decree nisi in certain cases |
| 16 | Assistance to the court by the Secretary for Justice |
| 17 | Financial protection for respondent in certain cases |
| 18 | Rules may enable certain agreements or arrangements to be referred to the court |
| 19 | Remarriage of divorced persons |

PART 3 — NULLITY

- | | |
|----|--|
| 20 | Declarations of nullity and annulment of marriage |
| 21 | Void marriages |
| 22 | Voidable marriages |
| 23 | Limitations on petitions for annulment |
| 24 | Parties to nullity proceedings |
| 25 | Hearing of petition |
| 26 | Application of Sections 13, 16 and 19 to nullify proceedings |
| 27 | Legitimacy of children of annulled marriages |

PART 4 — OTHER MATRIMONIAL SUITS

- | | |
|----|--|
| 28 | Judicial separation |
| 29 | Presumption of death and dissolution of marriage |

Section

Title

PART 5 — ANCILLARY RELIEF

- 30 Interim maintenance orders
- 31 Maintenance orders
- 32 Commencement of proceedings with respect to maintenance
- 33 Neglect to maintain
- 34 Validity of maintenance agreements
- 35 Alteration of agreements by the court during the lives of the parties
- 36 Applications for ancillary relief
- 37 Payment of maintenance to trustees, etc
- 38 Variation and discharge of certain orders for relief
- 39 Avoidance of transactions intended to prevent relief

PART 6 — PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

- 40 Restrictions on decrees of divorce, nullity and judicial separation affecting children
- 41 Maintenance of children affected by matrimonial suits

PART 7 — MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

- 42 Enforcement of maintenance orders
- 43 Declarations of legitimacy
- 44 Jurisdiction in matrimonial suits
- 45 Next friend and guardian ad litem not required in matrimonial suits
- 46 Enticement
- 47 Evidence
- 48 Appeals
- 49 Rules
- 50 Matrimonial Causes Jurisdiction Ordinance 1910 of Papua to cease to apply
[*Repealed*]

Matrimonial Causes Act 1973

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS

The Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 No 21 was certified on 8 November 1973 and commenced on 3 October 1977 (GN No 393/1977; Gaz 66/1977).

Amending Legislation	Certified	Date of Commencement
Statute Law Revision Act 2011 No 8	15 April 2011	Sch 1[93]: 15 April 2011
Interpretation (Consequential Amendments) Act 2011 No 18	3 November 2011	Sch [19]: 3 November 2011
Revised Written Laws Act 2021 No 7	1 June 2021	1 June 2021