

The Laws of Zambia

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

THE MARRIAGE ACT

CHAPTER 50 OF THE LAWS OF ZAMBIA

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART I GENERALPART I

GENERAL

Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Marriage districts
4. Appointment of Registrar-General and Registrars
5. Licensing of places of public worship

PART II PRELIMINARIES TO MARRIAGEPART II

PRELIMINARIES TO MARRIAGE

The Laws of Zambia

6. Notice of intended marriage
7. Signature of notice
8. Forms of notice to be supplied
9. Entry in Notice Book and publication of notice
10. Issue of certificate
11. Marriage to take place within three months of date of notice
12. Issue of special licence
13. Entry of caveat
14. Procedure on entry of caveat
15. Cancellation (or otherwise) of caveat
16. Costs of proceedings

PART III CONSENT TO MARRIAGE IN CERTAIN CASES NECESSARYPART III

CONSENT TO MARRIAGE IN CERTAIN CASES NECESSARY

17. When consent to marriage is necessary
18. Signature to consent and attestation
19. Consent in case of refusal or absence of parent or guardian

PART IV SOLEMNISATION OF MARRIAGEPART IV

SOLEMNISATION OF MARRIAGE

Section

20. Solemnisation of marriage by ministers
21. Registrar's certificate or special licence to be provided to minister
22. Marriage in licensed building
23. Marriage books
24. Completion of marriage certificate
25. Attestation of marriage certificate
26. Marriage before Registrar
27. Issue of marriage certificate by Registrar
28. Marriage in building other than licensed building or Registrar's office

PART V REGISTRY AND EVIDENCE OF MARRIAGESPART V

REGISTRY AND EVIDENCE OF MARRIAGES

The Laws of Zambia

29. Registration of marriages by Registrar-General
30. Correction in Register of clerical errors
31. Certificate of marriage to be evidence
32. Invalid marriages
33. Void marriages
34. Marriage under African customary law

PART VI VALIDATION OF MARRIAGE ALREADY SOLEMNISED
PART VI
VALIDATION OF MARRIAGE ALREADY SOLEMNISED

35. Marriages already solemnised in Zambia
36. Records and evidence of such marriages
37. Costs of transmission of records, etc.

PART VII OFFENCES AND PENALTIES
PART VII
OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

38. Contracting marriage under this Act when married in African customary law or contracting marriage in African customary law when married under this Act
39. Accomplices
40. False declarations, etc.

Section

41. False pretences in connection with consent to marriage
42. Illegal performance of ceremony
43. Failure to fill up and transmit certificates
44. Personation
45. False representation

PART VIII MISCELLANEOUS
PART VIII
MISCELLANEOUS

46. Rules
47. Ministers may receive fees
48. Notice when solemnisation intended in United Kingdom
49. Validation of certain marriages

CHAPTER 50

MARRIAGE

An Act to provide for the solemnisation of marriages; to provide for the validation of marriages already solemnised; and to provide for matters incidental to or connected with the foregoing.

[1st October, 1918]

10 of 1918
27 of 1930
11 of 1937
31 of 1941
35 of 1947
12 of 1949
36 of 1950
48 of 1953
6 of 1955
48 of 1963
57 of 1964
20 of 1966
21 of 1969
13 of 1994
Government Notices
316 of 1964
493 of 1964
497 of 1964
Statutory Instrument
72 of 1964

PART I GENERALPART I

GENERAL

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

Short title

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires-

Interpretation

"district" means a marriage district constituted under section *three*;

"licensed minister" means any minister appointed under subsection (2) of section *five* to solemnise marriages in Zambia;

"Registrar" means a Registrar of Marriages appointed under section *four* and any person lawfully acting as such;

"Registrar-General" includes the Registrar-General of Marriages, the Deputy Registrar-General of Marriages and any person lawfully acting as the Registrar-General of Marriages or the Deputy Registrar-General of Marriages;

The Laws of Zambia

"special licence" means a special licence granted under section *twelve*.

(As amended by No. 11 of 1937, No. 48 of 1953
and G.N. No. 316 of 1964)

3. The Minister may, by statutory notice, divide Zambia into districts for the purposes of this Act and may, by like notice, from time to time alter such districts, either by change of boundaries or by union or subdivision of districts or by the formation of new districts.

Marriage districts

(As amended by G.N. No. 316 of 1964)

4. The Minister may from time to time appoint a Registrar-General of Marriages for Zambia and Registrars of Marriages for any marriage district; and may also from time to time appoint a Deputy Registrar-General of Marriages, an Assistant Registrar-General of Marriages and Deputy Registrars of Marriages for any marriage district. The Assistant Registrar-General of Marriages and the Deputy Registrar of Marriages for any marriage district shall, in the absence or during the illness or incapacity of the Registrar-General or of the Registrar or Registrars of any marriage district respectively, have and exercise all the powers conferred by this Act upon the Registrar-General and the Registrars respectively.

Appointment of
Registrar-General and
Registrars

(No. 27 of 1930 as amended by No. 31 of 1941, No. 48 of 1953, G.N. No. 316 of 1964 and
S.I. No. 72 of 1964)

5. (1) The Minister may, by *Gazette* notice, license any place of public worship to be a place for the solemnisation of marriages and may at any time, by like notice, cancel such licence.

Licensing of places of
public worship

(2) The Minister may, by *Gazette* notice, appoint any minister of any church or religious body to solemnise marriages in Zambia and may at any time, by like notice, cancel such appointment.

(As amended by G.N. No. 316 of 1964)

PART II PRELIMINARIES TO MARRIAGEPART II

PRELIMINARIES TO MARRIAGE

6. No marriage shall be solemnised unless notice of the intended marriage shall have been given in the prescribed form by one of the parties thereto to the Registrar of the district in which the marriage is intended to take place not less than twenty-one days before the date of solemnisation.

Notice of intended
marriage

7. If the person giving such notice is unable to write, it shall be sufficient if he place his mark or cross thereto in the presence of some literate person who shall attest the same, which attestation shall be in the prescribed form.

Signature of notice