

THE INDIAN CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE ACT 1872

Section	Details
	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>
	<u>PRELIMINARY</u>
Section 1	<u>Short title</u>
Section 2	<u>Enactments repealed</u>
Section 3	<u>Interpretation-clause</u>
<u>Part I</u>	THE PERSONS BY WHOM MARRIAGES MAY BE SOLEMNIZED
Section 4	<u>Marriages to be solemnized according to Act</u>
Section 5	<u>Persons by whom marriages may be solemnized</u>
Section 6	<u>Grant and revocation of licenses to solemnize marriages</u>
Section 7	<u>Marriage Registrars</u>
Section 8	<u>Marriage Registrars in Indian States</u>
Section 9	<u>Licensing of persons to grant certificates of marriage between Indian Christians</u>
Section 10	<u>Time for solemnizing marriage</u>
Section 11	<u>Place for solemnizing marriage</u>
Section 12	<u>Notice of intended marriage</u>
Section 13	<u>Publication of such notice</u>
Section 14	<u>Notice of intended marriage in private dwelling</u>
Section 15	<u>Sending copy of notice to Marriage Registrar when one party is a minor</u>
Section 16	<u>Procedure in receipt of notice</u>
Section 17	<u>Issue of certificate of notice given and declaration made</u>
Section 18	<u>Declaration before issue of certificate</u>
Section 19	<u>Consent of father, or guardian or mother</u>
Section 20	<u>Power to prohibit by notice issue of certificate</u>
Section 21	<u>Procedure on receipt of notice</u>
Section 22	<u>Issue of certificate in case of minority</u>
Section 23	<u>Issue of certificate to Indian Christians</u>
Section 24	<u>Form of certificate</u>
Section 25	<u>Solemnization of marriage</u>
Section 26	<u>Certificate void if marriage not solemnized within two months</u>
<u>Part IV</u>	REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGE SOLEMNIZED BY MINISTER OF RELIGION
Section 27	<u>Marriage when to be registered</u>

Section 28	Registration of marriages solemnized by Clergymen of Church of England
Section 29	Quarterly returns to Archdeaconry
Section 30	Registration and returns of marriages solemnized by Clergymen of Church of Rome
Section 31	Registration and returns of marriages solemnized by Clergymen of Church of Scotland
Section 32	Certain marriages to be registered in duplicate
Section 33	Entries of such marriages to be signed and attested
Section 34	Certificate to be forwarded to Marriage Registrar, copied and sent to Registrar-General
Section 35	Copies of certificates to be entered and numbered
Section 36	Registrar to add number of entry to certificate, and send to Registrar-General
Section 37	Registration of marriages between Indian Christians by persons referred to in clauses (1), (2) and (3) of section 5
Part V	MARRIAGES SOLEMNIZED BY, OR IN THE PRESENCE OF, A MARRIAGE
Section 38	Notice of intended marriage before Marriage Registrar
Section 39	Publication of notice
Section 40	Notice to be filed and copy entered in Marriage Notice Book
Section 41	Certificate of notice given and oath made
Section 42	Oath before issue of certificate
Section 43	Petition to High Court to order certificate in less than fourteen days
Section 44	Consent of father or guardian
Section 45	Petition where person whose consent is necessary is insane or unjustly withholds consent
Section 46	Petition when Marriage Registrar refuses certificate
Section 47	Petition when Marriage Registrar in Indian State refuses certificate
Section 48	Petition when Registrar doubts authority of person forbidding
Section 49	Liability for frivolous protest against issue of certificate
Section 50	Form of certificate
Section 51	Solemnization of marriage after issue of certificate
Section 52	When marriage not had within two months after notice, new notice required
Section 53	Marriage Registrar may ask for particulars to be registered
Section 54	Registration of marriages solemnized under Part V
Section 55	Certificate to be sent monthly to Registrar-General
Section 56	Officers to whom Registrar in Indian States shall send certificates
Section 57	Registrars to ascertain that notice and certificate are understood by Indian Christians
Section 58	Indian Christians to be made to understand declarations
Section 59	Registration of marriages between Indian Christians
Part VI	MARRIAGE OF INDIAN CHRISTIANS

Section 60	On what conditions marriages of Indian Christians may be certificate
Section 61	Grant of certificate
Section 62	Keeping of register-book an deposit of extracted therefrom with Registrar-General
Section 63	Searches in register-book and copies of entries
Section 64	Books in which marriages of Indian Christians under Part I or Part III are registered
Section 65	Part VI not to apply to Roman Catholics
Part VII	PENALTIES
Section 66	False oath, declaration, notice or certificate for procuring marriage
Section 67	Forbidding by false personation, issue of certificate by Marriage Registrar
Section 68	Solemnizing marriage without due authority
Section 69	Solemnizing marriage out of proper time, or without witnesses
Section 70	Solemnizing without notice or within fourteen days after notice, marriage with minor
Section 71	Issuing certificate, or marrying, without publication of notice
Section 72	Issuing certificate after expiry of notice, or, in case of minor, within fourteen days after notice, or against authorized prohibition
Section 73	Persons authorized to; solemnize marriage (other than clergy of Churches of England, Scotland or Rome
Section 74	Unlicensed person granting certificate pretending to be licensed
Section 75	Destroying or falsifying register-book
Section 76	Limitation of prosecutions under Act
Part VIII	MISCELLANEOUS
Section 77	What matters need not be proved in respect of marriage in accordance with Act
Section 78	Corrections or errors
Section 79	Searches and copies of entries
Section 80	Certified copy of entry in marriage-register, etc., to be evidence
Section 81	Certificates of certain marriages to be sent to Central Government
Section 82	State Government to prescribe fees
Section 83	Power to make rules
Section 84	Power to prescribe fees and rules for Indian States
Section 85	Power to declare who shall be District Judge
Section 86	Powers and functions exercisable as regards Indian States
Section 87	Saving of Consular marriages
Section 88	Non-validation of marriages within prohibited degrees
	SCHEDULES
SCHEDULE I	NOTICE OF MARRIAGE
SCHEDULE II	CERTIFICATE OF RECEIPT OF NOTICE
SCHEDULE III	FORM OF REGISTER OF MARRIAGES

SCHEDULE IV	MARRIAGE REGISTER BOOK
SCHEDULE V	Enactments Repealed.

THE INDIAN CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE ACT 1872

INTRODUCTION

Many Centuries ago, Christians came to India and settled in this country when East India Company assumed ruling power in India and established its own courts. With the establishment of the Supreme Courts, the Common Law of England was made applicable to India on many subjects including marriage and divorce among the Christian community, on the ground that it was based on the principle of equity, justice and good conscience.

Before the enactment of Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872 the law relating to solemnization in India of marriage of persons professing the Christian religion was guided by two British Acts, 14 and 15 Vict. C. 40 and 58 Geo. III C.84 and two Indian Acts, Acts 5 of 1852 and 5 of 1865.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The law relating to solemnization in India of marriages of persons professing the Christian religion is at present distributed over two English Acts of Parliament and three Acts of the Indian Legislature.

The object of this Bill is to reduce into a smaller compass and simplify the existing law on this subject by the consolidation of the different enactments referred to, and at the same time, to amend the law in those matters in which it has been shown to be defective.

For example, by Act V of 1865 it is provided that marriages between Native Christians shall be valid where the ages of the contracting parties are not less than sixteen and thirteen years respectively, and where they do not stand in relation to each other within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity or affinity.

It has been very forcibly represented by the President and several Members of the Bengal Christian Association that this provision of the law works injuriously by freeing the children of Native Christian parents from the control which all other parents can legally exercise over their sons and daughters before the latter have attained their majority.

The Bill requires the consent of the parents or guardians of Native Christian to a marriage between them, where the age of either of the parties about to contract such marriage is less than eighteen years, except in cases in which the minors have been altogether separated from their parents or natural guardians, and by reason of such separation are not proposed subject to their control.

There is also some ambiguity in regard to the provisions of the law respecting the submission of returns, and the disposal of the records of the registration of marriages solemnized between Native Christians.

The Bill lays down distinctly how such marriages are to be recorded in all cases. and provides for the disposal of the record. It also substitutes for the fixed rates of fees in respect of marriages solemnized by or before Marriage Registrars, a power to the Local Government to regulate such fees and their remission; and lastly, extends the Marriage Law to all places within the territories of Native Princes in alliance with Her Majesty, in respect of marriages between British subjects professing the Christian religion.

ACT 15 OF 1872

The Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872 (Act 15 of 1872), was enacted on 18th day of July, 1872 to consolidate and amend the law relation to the solemnization in India of the marriages of Christians.

LIST OF AMENDING ACTS AND ADAPTATION ORDERS

1. The Repealing Act, 1874 (16 of 1874)
2. The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1891 (2 of 1891)
3. The Indian Christian Marriage Act (1872), Amendment Act, 1891 (2 of 1891)
4. The Amending Act, 1891 (12 of 1891)
5. The Amending Act, 1903 (1 of 1903)
6. The Indian Christian Marriage (Amendment) Act, 1911 (13 of 1911)
7. The Devolution Act, 1920 (38 of 1920)
8. The Repealing and Amending Act, 1928 (18 of 1928)
9. The Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937
10. The Repealing Act, 1938 (1 of 1938)
11. The Independence (Adaptation of Central Acts and Ordinances) Order, 1948
12. The Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950
13. The Part B States (Laws) Act, 1952(3 of 1951)
14. The Repealing and Amending Act, 1952 (48 of 1952)
15. The Union Territories (Laws) Act, 1950 (30 of 1950)as amended by Act 68 of 1956
16. The adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956
17. The Pondicherry (Extension of Laws) Act, 1968 (26 of 1968)
18. The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1983 (20 of 1983).

THE INDIAN CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE ACT 1872

(15 of 1872)

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the solemnization in India of the marriages of Christians.

[18th July, 1872]

Preamble —

Whereas it is expedient to consolidate and amend the law relating to the solemnization in India of the marriages of persons professing the Christian religion; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title —

This Act may be called the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872.

Extent.—It extends to the whole of India except the territories which, immediately before the 1st November, 1956, were comprised in the States of Travancore-Cochin, Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir.

2. Enactments repealed —

Rep. by the Repealing Act, 1938 (1938), Sec. 2 and Subject or context,—

3. Interpretation-clause —

In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context,—

"**Church of England**" and "**Anglican**" means and apply to the Church of England as by law established;

"**Church of Scotland**" means the Church of Scotland as by law established;

"**Church of Rome**" and "**Roman Catholic**" means and apply to the Church which regards the Pope of Rome as its spiritual head;

"**Church**" includes any chapel or other building generally used for public Christian Worship;

"**India**" means the territories to which this Act extends;

"**minor**" means a person who has not completed the age of twenty-one years and who is not a widower or a widow;

the expression "**Christians**" means persons professing the Christian religion;

and the expression "**Indian Christians**" includes the Christian descendants of natives of India converted to Christianity, as well as such converts;

"**Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages**" means a Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages appointed under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886 (6 of 1886).

STATE AMENDMENT

Karnataka: In section 3, the definition of "Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages" Shall be substituted as follows:

"'Registrar-General of Births, Death and Marriages' means the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages appointed under the Mysore Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act, 1956, 1956." [Mysore Act 20 of 1956, sec. I read with Act 31 of 1973, sec. 5.

COMMENTS

The expression Christian means persons professing the Christian religion and Indian Christian includes the Christian descendants of natives of India converted to Christianity, as well as such converts. Marriages between persons at least one of whom is Christian are governed by the Christian Marriage Act, 1872 (No. XV of 1872). The Act is not only an amending but a consolidating Act and provides a Code in itself. It extends to the whole of India except States of Travancore-Cochin, Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir.

Part I - THE PERSONS BY WHOM MARRIAGES MAY BE SOLEMNIZED

4. Marriages to be solemnized according to Act —

Every marriage between persons, one or both of whom is or are a Christian, or Christians, shall be solemnized in accordance with the provisions of the next following section; and any such marriage solemnized otherwise than in accordance with such provisions shall be void.

COMMENTS

Certain conditions have been laid down for a marriage to be valid under the Act. The parties to the marriage must be Christian as defined under section 3 of the Act or at least one of them must be a Christian and the marriage must have been solemnised in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the Act by a person duly authorised to do so. The State Governments of the area have

been authorised to grant and revoke the licences, granted in favour of certain persons, for the solemnization of marriages under the Act. As per the provisions contained in the Act, the marriage must be performed in a particular form duly entered in the Marriage Register, maintained for this purpose. The factum of marriage can be proved by producing the entries from this register. Other evidence can also be produced for this purpose. Version of the eye witnesses to the marriage, subsequent conduct of the couple living as husband and wife, can also be a good piece of evidence to prove the factum of a Christian marriage.² Admission of either spouse is a relevant factor to prove the factum of marriage.

A Christian Marriage can also take place at the house of the bride's mother and in that case the signing of Marriage Register is not essential under the Act.³

In a case before the Karnataka High Court reported in (1993 MLJ 31), it was held, "Christian marriage even if one of its parties in a Hindu can not be dissolved by a decree of divorce under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act." However, a Division Bench of the same High Court in its decision reported in (1995 MLJ 492), held that a marriage performed under the Christian Marriage Act and validly registered under the provisions of Special Marriage Act can be dissolved on the basis of mutual consent under Section 28 of the Special Marriage Act if the conditions laid down in that Section are fulfilled.

5. Persons by whom marriages may be solemnized —

Marriages may be solemnized in India—

- (1) by any person who has received episcopal ordination, provided that the marriage be solemnized according to the rules, rites, ceremonies and customs of the Church of which he is a Minister;
- (2) by any Clergyman of the Church of Scotland, provided that such marriage be solemnized according to the rules, rites, ceremonies and customs of the Church of Scotland;
- (3) by any Minister of Religion licensed under this Act to solemnize marriages;
- (4) by, or in the presence of, a Marriage Registrar appointed under this Act;
- (5) by any person licensed under this Act to grant certificates of marriage between Indian Christians.

COMMENTS

As a general rule every marriage under this Act shall be solemnised between the hours of six in the morning and seven in the evening and the place of marriage is a Church. Exceptions are, however, made in case where a special licence permitting a clergyman of the Church is granted. The Act of a person who solemnises a marriage beyond these hours and outside the Church in the absence of the witnesses without any special licence, has been made punishable under section 69 of the Act. The punishment provided is upto three years imprisonment.

6. Grant and revocation of licenses to solemnize marriages —

The State Government, so far as regards the territories under its administration, may, by notification in the Official Gazette, grant licences to Ministers of Religion to solemnize marriages within such territories and may, by a like notification, revoke such licences.

7. Marriage Registrars.—

The State Government may appoint one or more Christians, either by name or as holding any office for the time being, to be the Marriage Registrar or Marriage Registrars for any district subject to its administration.

Senior Marriage Registrar

Where there are more Marriage Registrars than one in any district, the State Government shall appoint one of them to be the Senior Marriage Registrar.

Magistrate when to be Marriage Registrar

When there is only one Marriage Registrar in a district, and such Registrar is absent from such district, or ill, or when his office is temporarily vacant, the Magistrate of district shall act as, and be, Marriage Registrar thereof during such absence, illness, or temporary vacancy.

STATE AMENDMENT

Karnataka: In section 7, for the words “**Magistrate of the District**”, the words “**District Magistrate**” shall be substituted. [*Mysore Act 13 of 1965, sec. 66 and Sch, read with Act 31 of 1973, sec. 5.*]

8. Marriage Registrars in Indian States.—

Rep. by A.O. 1950.

9. Licensing of persons to grant certificates of marriage between Indian Christians.—

The State Government may grant a license to any Christian either by name or as holding any office for the time being, authorizing him to grant certificates of marriage between Indian Christians.

Any such license may be revoked by the authority by which it was granted and every such grant or revocation shall be notified in the Official Gazette.

Part II - TIME AND PLACE AT WHICH MARRIAGES MAY BE SOLEMNIZED

10. Time for solemnizing marriage —

Every marriage under this Act shall be solemnized between the hours of six in the morning and seven in the evening:

Exceptions — Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to—

(1) a Clergyman of the Church of England solemnizing a marriage under a special license permitting him to do so at any hour other than between six in the morning and seven in the evening, under the hand and seal of the Anglican Bishop of the Diocese of his Commissary, or

(2) a Clergyman of the Church of Rome solemnizing a marriage between the hours of seven in the evening and six in the morning, when he has received a general or special license in that behalf from the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese or Vicariate in which such marriage is so solemnized, or from such person as the same Bishop has authorised to grant such license, or

(3) a Clergyman of the Church of Scotland solemnizing a marriage according to the rule, rites, ceremonies and customs of the Church of Scotland.

11. Place for solemnizing marriage —

No Clergyman of the Church of England shall solemnize a marriage in any place other than a church where worship is generally held according to the norms of the Church of England to unless there is no ² [such church within five miles distance by the shortest road from such place, or unless he has received a special license authorizing him to do so under the hand and seal of the Anglican Bishop of the Diocese or his Commissary.

Fee for special license

For such special license, the Registrar of the Diocese may charge such additional fee as said Bishop from time authorizes.

Part III - MARRIAGES SOLEMNIZED BY MINISTERS OF RELIGION LICENSED UNDER THIS ACT

12. Notice of intended marriage.—

Whenever a marriage is intended to be solemnized by a Minister of Religion licensed to solemnize marriages under this Act—

one of the persons intending marriage shall give notice in writing, according to the form contained in the First Schedule hereto annexed, or to the like effect, to the Minister of Religion whom he or she desires to solemnize the marriage, and shall state therein—

- (a) the name and surname, and the profession or condition, of each of the persons intending marriage;
- (b) the dwelling-place of each of them;
- (c) the time during which each has dwelt there; and
- (d) the church or private dwelling in which the marriage is to be solemnized:

Provided that, if either of such persons has dwelt in the place mentioned in the notice during more than one month, it may be stated therein that he or she has dwelt there one month and upwards.

13. Publication of such notice —

If the persons intending marriage desire it to be solemnized in a particular church, and if the Minister of Religion to whom such notice has been delivered be entitled to officiate therein, he shall cause the notice to be affixed in some conspicuous part of such church.

Return or transfer of notice

But if he is not entitled to officiate as a Minister in such church, he shall, at his option, either return the notice to the person who delivered it to him, or deliver it to some other Minister entitled to officiate therein, who shall thereupon cause the notice to be affixed as aforesaid.

14. Notice of intended marriage in private dwelling —

If it be intended that the marriage shall be solemnized in a private dwelling, the Minister of Religion, on receiving the notice prescribed in section 12, shall forward it to the Marriage Registrar of the district, who shall affix the same to some conspicuous place in his own office.

15. Sending copy of notice to Marriage Registrar when one party is a minor.—

When one of the persons intending marriage is a minor, every Minister receiving such notice shall, unless within twenty-four hours after this receipt he returns the same under the provisions of section 13, send by the post or otherwise a copy of such notice to the Marriage Registrar of the district, or, if there be more than one Registrar of such district, to the Senior Marriage Registrar.

16. Procedure in receipt of notice.—

The Marriage Registrar or Senior Marriage Registrar, as the case may be, on receiving any such notice, shall affix it to some conspicuous place in his own office, and the latter shall further cause

a copy of the said notice to be sent to each of the other Marriage Registrars in the same district who shall likewise publish the same in the manner above directed.

17. Issue of certificate of notice given and declaration made.—

Any Minister of Religion consenting or intending to solemnize any such marriage as aforesaid, shall, on being required so to do by or on behalf of the person by whom the notice was given, any upon one of the persons intending marriage making the declaration hereinafter required, issue under his hand a certificate of such notice having been given and of such declaration having been made:

Proviso.—Provided—

- (1) that no such certificates shall be issued until the expiration of four days after the date of the receipt of the notice by such Minister;
- (2) that no lawful impediment be shown to his satisfaction why such certificate should not issue; and
- (3) that the issue of such certificate has not been forbidden, in manner hereinafter mentioned, by any person authorized in that behalf.

18. Declaration before issue of certificate.—

The certificate mentioned in section 17 shall not be issued until one of the persons intending marriage has appeared personally before the Minister and made a solemn declaration—

- (a) that he or she believes that there is not any impediment of kindred or affinity, or other lawful hindrance, to the said marriage, and, when either or both of the parties is or are a minor or minors —
- (b) that the consent or consents required by law has or have been obtained thereto, or that there is no person resident in India having authority to give such consent, as the case may be.

19. Consent of father, or guardian or mother.—

The father, if living, of any minor, or, if the father be dead, the guardian of the person of such minor, and, in case there be no such guardian, then the mother of such minor, may give consent to the minor's marriage, and such consent is hereby required for the same marriage, unless no person authorised to give such consent be resident in India.

20. Power to prohibit by notice issue of certificate —

Every person whose consent to a marriage is required under section 19, is hereby authorized to prohibit the issue of the certificate by any Minister, at any time before the issue of the same, by notice in writing to such Minister, subscribed by the person so authorized with his or her name

and place of abode and position with respect to either of the persons intending marriage, by reason of which he or she is so authorized as aforesaid.

21. Procedure on receipt of notice —

If any such notice be received by such Minister, he shall not issue his certificate and shall not solemnize the said marriage until he has examined into the matter of the prohibition, and is satisfied that the person prohibiting the marriage has no lawful authority for such prohibition, or until the said notice is withdrawn by the person who gave it.

22. Issue of certificate in case of minority —

When either of the persons intending marriage is a minor, and the Minister is not satisfied that the consent of the person whose consent to such marriage is required by section 19 has been obtained, such Minister shall not issue such certificate until the expiration of fourteen days after the receipt by him of the notice of marriage.

23. Issue of certificate to Indian Christians —

When any Indian Christian about to be married takes a notice of marriage to a Minister of Religion, or applies for a certificate from such Minister under section 17, such Minister shall, before issuing the certificate, ascertain whether such Indian Christian is cognizant of the purport and effect of the said notice or certificate, as the may be, and such if not, shall translate or cause to be, translated the notice or certificate to such Indian Christian into some language which he understands.

24. Form of certificate —

The certificate to be issued by such Minister shall be in the form contained in the Second Schedule hereto annexed, or to the like effect.

25. Solemnization of marriage —

After the issue of the certificate by the Minister, marriage may be solemnized between the persons therein described according to such form or ceremony as the Minister thinks fit to adopt: Provided that the marriage be solemnized in the presence of at least two witnesses besides the Minister.

26. Certificate void if marriage not solemnized within two months —

Whenever a marriage is not solemnized within two months after the date of the certificate issued by such Minister as aforesaid, such certificate and all proceedings (if any) thereon shall be void, and no person shall proceed to solemnize the said marriage until new notice has been given, and a certificate thereof issued in manner aforesaid.

COMMENTS

This part of the Act, deals with the notice of intended marriage and its publication before the actual marriage ceremony. It lays down that one of the persons intending marriage shall give a notice in writing as per the form contained in first schedule of the Act, to the Minister of Religion whom he or she desires to solemnise the marriage.

If the marriage is intended to be in a particular Church and the Minister of Religion, who has received the notice, has no jurisdiction to officiate as a Minister in that Church, he shall either return the notice back or send it to the concerned Minister of religion who shall affix the same at some conspicuous part of such Church. If the marriage is intended to be in a private dwelling, the Minister of Religion shall forward the notice to the Marriage Registrar of the district, who shall affix the same at some conspicuous place in his own office.

Before the solemnization of marriage, a certificate by the Minister of Religion is essential. Such certificate shall not be issued before the expiry of four days from the date of the receipt of the notice. It should also be shown that there is no impediment in the issuance of the certificate and the issue of the same has not been forbidden. If the marriage is not solemnised within two months from the date of the issue of the certificate becomes void and fresh notice is to be served.

If a party to a marriage is a minor, the consent of father if living, or if the father is dead, the consent of the guardian of the person of such minor or if there is no guardian, then that of the mother, is essential before marriage. A marriage of minor without such consent is not valid.¹

Part IV - REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGE SOLEMNIZED BY MINISTER OF RELIGION

27. Marriage when to be registered.—

All marriages hereafter solemnized in India between persons one or both of whom professes or profess the Christian religion, except marriages solemnized under Part V or Part VI of this Act, shall be registered³ in manner hereinafter prescribed.

28. Registration of marriages solemnized by Clergymen of Church of England.—

Every Clergyman of the Church of England shall keep a register of marriages and shall register therein, according to the tabular form set forth in the Third Schedule hereto annexed, every marriage which he solemnizes under this Act.

29. Quarterly returns to Archdeaconry —

Every Clergyman of the Church of England shall send four times in every year returns in duplicate, authenticated by his signature, of the entries in the register of marriages solemnized at any place where he has any spiritual charge, to the Registrar of the Archdeaconry to which he is subject, or within the limits of which such place is situate.

Contents of returns

Such quarterly returns shall contain all the entries of marriages contained in the said register from the first day of January to the thirty first day of March, from the first day of April to the thirtieth day of June, from the first day of July to the thirtieth day of September and from the first day of October to the thirty-first day of December, of each year, respectively, and shall be sent by such Clergyman within two weeks from the expiration of each of the quarters above specified.

The said Registrar upon receiving the said returns shall one copy thereof to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

30. Registration and returns of marriages solemnized by Clergymen of Church of Rome —

Every marriage solemnized by a Clergyman of the Church of Rome shall be registered by the person and according to the form directed in that behalf by the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese or Vicariate in which such marriage is solemnized, and such person shall forward quarterly to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages returns of the entries of all marriages registered by him during the three months next preceding.

31. Registration and returns of marriages solemnized by Clergymen of Church of Scotland.

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Every Clergyman of the Church of Scotland shall keep a register of marriages, and shall register therein, according to the tabular form set forth in the Third Schedule hereto annexed, every marriage which he solemnizes under this Act, and shall forward quarterly to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, through the Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland, returns, similar to those prescribed in section 29, of all such marriages.

32. Certain marriages to be registered in duplicate.—

Every marriage solemnized by any person who has received episcopal ordination, but who is not a Clergyman of the Church of England, or of the Church of Rome, or by any Minister of Religion licensed under this Act to solemnize marriages, shall immediately after the solemnization thereof, be registered, in duplicate by the person solemnizing the same;(that is to say) in a marriage register-book to be kept by him for that purpose, according to the form contained in the Fourth Schedule hereto annexed, and also in a certificate attached to the marriage-register-book as a counterfoil.

33. Entries of such marriages to be signed and attested.—

The entry of such marriage in both the certificate and marriage-register-book shall be signed by the person solemnizing the marriage, and also by the persons married, and shall be attested by two credible witnesses, other than the person solemnizing the marriage, present at its solemnization.

Every such entry shall be made in order from the beginning to the end of the book, and the number of the certificate shall correspond with that of the entry in the marriage-register-book.

34. Certificate to be forwarded to Marriage Registrar, copied and sent to Registrar-General.—

The person solemnizing the marriage shall forthwith separate the certificate from the marriage-register-book and send it, within one month from the time of the solemnization, to the Marriage Registrar of the district in which the marriage was solemnized, or, if there be more Marriage Registrars than one, to the Senior Marriage Registrar.

Who shall cause such certificate to be copied into a book to be kept by him for that purpose, and shall send all the certificates which he has received during the month, with such number and signature of initials added thereto as are hereinafter required to the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

35. Copies of certificates to be entered and numbered.—

Such copies shall be entered in order from the beginning to the end of the said book, and shall bear both the number of the certificate as copied, and also a number to be entered by the Marriage Registrar, indicating the number of entry of the said copy in the said book, according to the order in which he receives each certificate.

36. Registrar to add number of entry to certificate, and send to Registrar-General.—

The Marriage Registrar shall also add such last-mentioned number of the entry of the copy in the book to the certificate, with his signature or initials, and shall, at the end of every month, send the same to the Registrar General of Birth, Deaths and Marriages.

37. Registration of marriages between Indian Christians by persons referred to in clauses (1), (2) and (3) of section 5.—

When any marriage between Indian Christians is solemnized by any such person, Clergyman or Minister of Religion as is referred to in clause (1), clause (2) or clause (3) of section 5, the person solemnizing the same shall, instead of proceeding in the manner provided by sections 28 to 36, both inclusive, register the marriage in a separate register-book, and shall keep it safely until it is filled, or if he leaves the district in which he solemnized the marriage before the said book is filled, shall make over the same to the person succeeding to his duties in the said district.

CUSTODY AND DISPOSAL OF REGISTER-BOOK.

Whoever has the control of the book at the time when it is filled, shall send it to the Marriage Registrar of the district, or, if there be more Marriage Registrars than one, to the Senior Marriage Registrar, who shall send it to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, to be kept by him with the records of his office.

COMMENTS

This part of the Act, deals with the registration of the marriages solemnised under this Act. The registration of marriages between native Christian is to be in conformity with the rules laid down by this section, so far as they are applicable. The entries of such marriages are to be signed by both the parties and the persons solemnising the marriages and shall be attested by two credible witnesses.

Part V - MARRIAGES SOLEMNIZED BY, OR IN THE PRESENCE OF, A MARRIAGE

38. Notice of intended marriage before Marriage Registrar.—

When a marriage is intended to be solemnized by, or in the presence of a Marriage Registrar, one of the parties to such marriage shall give notice in writing, in the form contained on the First Schedule hereto annexed, or to the like effect; to any Marriage Registrar of the district within which the parties have dwelt, or in which the parties dwell in different districts, shall give the like notice to a Marriage Registrar of each district, and shall state therein the name and surname, and the profession or condition of each of the parties intending marriage, the dwelling-place of each of them, the time during which each has dwelt therein, and the place at which the marriage is to be solemnized:

Provided that, if either party has dwelt in the place stated in the notice for more than one month, it may be stated therein that he or she has dwelt there one month and upwards.

39. Publication of notice.—

Every Marriage Registrar shall, on receiving any such notice, cause copy thereof to be affixed in some conspicuous place in his office.

When one of the parties intending marriage is a minor, every Marriage registrar shall, within twenty-four hours after the receipt by him of the notice of such marriage, send, by post or otherwise, a copy of such notice to each of the other Marriage Registrars (if any) in the same district, who shall likewise affix the copy in some conspicuous place in his own office.

40. Notice to be filed and copy entered in Marriage Notice Book.—

The Marriage Registrar shall file all such notices and keep them with the records of his office, and shall also forth with enter true copy of all such notices in a book to be furnished to him for that purpose by the State Government, and to be called the " Marriage-Notice Book", and the Marriage Notice Book shall be open at all reasonable times, without fee, to all persons desirous of inspecting the same.

41. Certificate of notice given and oath made.—

If the party by whom the notice was given requests the Marriage Registrar to issue the certificate next hereinafter mentioned, and of the parties intending marriage has made oath as hereinafter required, the Marriage Registrar shall issue under his hand a certificate of such notice having been given and or such oath having been made:

Proviso — Provided—

that the issue of such certificate has not been forbidden, in manner hereinafter mentioned, by any person authorized in that behalf by this Act;

that four days after the receipt of the notice have expired. and further;

that where, by such oath, it appears that one of the parties intending marriage is a minor, fourteen days after the entry of such notice have expired.

42. Oath before issue of certificate.—

The certificate mentioned in section 41 shall not be issued by any Marriage Registrar, until one of the parties intending marriage appears personally before such Marriage Registrar, and makes oath—

(a) that he or she believes that there is no any impediment of kindred or affinity, or other lawful hindrance, to the said marriage, and

(b) that both the parties have, or (where they have dwelt in the districts of different Marriage Registrars) that the party making such oath has, had their, his or her usual place of abode within the district of such Marriage Registrar, and, where either or each of the parties is a minor,-

(c) that the consent or consents to such marriage required by law has or have been obtained thereto, to that there is no person resident in India authorized to give such consent, as the case may be.

43. Petition to High Court to order certificate in less than fourteen days —

When one of the parties intending marriage is a minor, and both such parties are at the time resident in any of the towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, and are desirous of being married in less than fourteen days after the entry of such notice as aforesaid, they may apply by petition to a judge of the High Court, for an order upon the Marriage Registrar to whom the notice of marriage has been given, directing him to issue his certificate before the expiration of the said fourteen days required by section 41.

Order on petition

And on sufficient cause being shown, said Judge may, in his discretion, made an order upon such Marriage Registrar, directing him to issue his certificate at any time to be mentioned in the said order before the expiration of the fourteen days so required.

And the said Marriage Registrar, on receipt of the order, shall issue his certificate in accordance therewith.

44. Consent of father or guardian.—

The provisions of section 19 apply to every marriage under this Part, either of the parties to which is a minor:

Protest against issue of certificate

And any person whose consent to such marriage would be required thereunder may enter a protest against the issue of the Marriage Notice Book, and by subscribing thereto his or her name and place of abode, and his or her position with respect to either of the parties, by reason of which he or she is so authorized.

Effect of Protest

When such protest has been entered, no certificate shall issue until the Marriage Registrar has examined into the matter of the protest, and is satisfied that it ought not to obstruct the issue of the certificate for the said marriage, or until the protest be withdrawn by the person who entered it.

45. Petition where person whose consent is necessary is insane or unjustly withholds consent.—

If any person whose consent is necessary to any marriage under this Part is of unsound mind or if any such person (other than the father) without just cause withholds his consent to the marriage, the parties intending marriage may apply by petition, where the person whose consent to the marriage, the parties intending marriage may apply by petition, where the person whose consent is necessary is resident within any of towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, to a Judge of the High Court, or if he is not resident within any of the said towns, then to the District Judge.

Procedure on petition

And the said Judge of the High Court, or District Judge, as the case may be, may examine the allegations of the petition in a summary way; and, if upon examination such marriage appears proper such judge of the High Court or District Judge, as the case may be, shall declare the marriage to be a proper marriage.

Such declaration shall be as effectual as if the person whose consent was needed had consented to the marriage; and if he has forbidden the issue of the Marriage Registrar's certificate, such certificate shall be issued and the like proceedings may be had under this Part in relation to marriage as if the issue of such certificate had not been forbidden.

46. Petition when Marriage Registrar refuses certificate.—

Whenever a Marriage Registrar refuses to issue a certificate under this Part, either of the parties intending marriage may apply by petition, where the district of such Registrar is within any of the towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay to a Judge of the High Court, or if such district is not within any of the said towns then to the District Judge

Procedure on petition

The said Judge of the High Court, or District Judge, as the case may be, any examine the allegations of the petition in a summary way, and shall decide thereon.

The decision of such Judge of the High Court or District Judge, as the case may be, shall be final, and the Marriage Registrar to whom the application for the issue of certificate was originally made shall proceed in accordance there with.

47. Petition when Marriage Registrar in Indian State refuses certificate.—

Rep. by the A.O. 1950.

48. Petition when Registrar doubts authority of person forbidding.—

Whenever a Marriage Registrar, acting under the provisions off section 44. is not satisfied that the person forbidding the issue of the certificate is authorized by law so to do, the said Marriage Registrar shall apply by petition, where his district is within any of the towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, to a Judge of the High Court, or if such district be not within any of the said towns, then to the District Judge.

Procedure on petition

The said petition shall state all the circumstances of the case, and pray for the order and direction of the Court concerning the same, and the said Judge of the High Court or District Judge, as the case may be, shall examine into the allegations of the petition and the circumstances of the case,

and if, upon such examination, it appears that the person forbidding the issue of such certificate is not authorized by law so to do, such Judge of the High Court or District Judge, as the case may be, shall declare that the person forbidding the issue of such certificate is not authorized as aforesaid, and thereupon such certificate shall be issued, and the like proceedings may be had in relation to such marriage as if the issue had not been forbidden.

49. Liability for frivolous protest against issue of certificate.—

Every person entering a protest with the Marriage Registrar, under this Part, against the issue of any certificate, on grounds which such Marriage Registrar, under section 44, or a Judge of the High Court or the District Judge, under section 45 or 46, declares to be frivolous and such as ought not to obstruct the issue of the certificate, shall be liable for the costs of all proceedings in relation thereto and for damages, to be recovered by suit by the person against whose marriage such protest was entered.

50. Form of certificate.—

The certificate to be issued by the Marriage Registrar under the provisions of section 41 shall be in the form contained in the Second Schedule to this Act annexed or to the like effect, and the State Government shall furnish to every Marriage Registrar a sufficient number of forms of certificate.

51. Solemnization of marriage after issue of certificate.—

After the issue of the certificate of the Marriage Registrar, or, where notice is required to be given under this Act to the Marriage Registrars for different districts, after the issue of the certificates of the Marriage Registrars for such districts, marriage may, if there be no lawful impediment to the marriage of the parties described in such certificate, or certificates, be solemnized between them, according to such form and ceremony as they think fit to adopt. But every such marriage shall be solemnized in the presence of some Marriage Registrar (to whom shall be delivered such certificate or certificates as aforesaid), and of two or more credible witnesses besides the Marriage Registrar. And in some part of the ceremony each of the parties shall declare as follows, or to the like effect:—

I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, A.B., may not be joined in matrimony to C.D."

And each of the parties shall say to the other as follows or to the like effect:-

I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, A.B., do take thee, C.D., to be my lawful wedded wife (or husband)".

52. When marriage not had within two months after notice, new notice required —

Whenever a marriage is not solemnized within two months after the copy of the notice has been entered by the Marriage Registrar, as required by section 40, the notice and the certificate, if any, issued thereupon, and all other proceedings thereupon, shall be void; and no person shall proceed to solemnize the marriage, nor shall any Marriage Registrar enter the same, until new notice has been given, and entry made, and certificate thereof given, at the time and in the manner aforesaid.

53. Marriage Registrar may ask for particulars to be registered —

A Marriage Registrar before whom any marriage is solemnized under this Part may ask of the persons to be married the several particulars required to be registered touching such marriage.

54. Registration of marriages solemnized under Part V —

After the solemnization of any marriage under this Part, the Marriage Registrar present at such solemnization shall forthwith register the marriage in duplicate; that is to say, in a marriage-register-book, according to the form of the Fourth Schedule hereto annexed, and also in a certificate attached to the marriage-register-book as a counterfoil.

The entry of such marriage in both the certificate and the marriage-register-book shall be signed by the person by or before whom the marriage has been solemnized, if there be any such person, and by the Marriage Registrar present at such marriage, whether or not it is solemnized by him, and also by the parties married and attested by two credible witnesses other than the Marriage Registrar and person solemnizing the marriage.

Every such entry shall be made in order from the beginning to the end of the book, and the number of the certificate shall correspond with that of the entry in the marriage-register-book.

55. Certificate to be sent monthly to Registrar-General.—

The Marriage Registrar shall forthwith separate the certificate from the marriage-register-book and send it, at the end of every month, to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Custody of register-book

The Marriage Registrar shall keep safely the said register-book until it is filled, and shall then send it to the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, to be kept by him with the records of his office.

56. Officers to whom Registrar in Indian States shall send certificates—

Rep. by the A.O. 1950.

57. Registrars to ascertain that notice and certificate are understood by Indian Christians.

When any Indian Christian about to be married gives a notice of marriage, or applies for a certificate from a Marriage Registrar, such Marriage Registrar shall ascertain whether the said Indian Christian understands the English language, and, if he does not, the Marriage Registrar shall translate, or cause to be translated such notice or certificate, or both of them, as the case may be, to such Indian Christian into a language which he understands; or the Marriage Registrar shall otherwise ascertain whether the Indian Christian is cognizant of the purport and effect of the said notice and certificate.

58. Indian Christians to be made to understand declarations.—

When any Indian Christian is married under provisions of this Part, the person solemnizing the marriage shall ascertain whether such Indian Christian understands the English language, and, if he does not, the person solemnizing the marriage shall, at the time of the solemnization, translate, or cause to be translated, to such Indian Christian, into a language which he understands, the declarations made at such marriage in accordance with the provision of this Act.

59. Registration of marriages between Indian Christians.—

The registration of marriages between Indian Christians under this Part shall be made in conformity with the rules laid down in section 37 (so far as they are applicable), and not otherwise.

COMMENTS

This part of the Act, deals with marriages solemnised by, or in the presence of, a Marriage Registrar. When a marriage is intended to be solemnised by, or in the presence of a Marriage Registrar one of the parties to such marriage shall give notice in writing in the form mentioned in first schedule of the Act to any Marriage Registrar of the district or districts of their residence. The issuance of certificate is essential by the Marriage Registrar before the solemnisation of marriage. When a marriage has not been solemnised within two months after notice, new notice is required.

After the solemnisation of marriage, it is to be registered and the entry of such marriage shall be made in Certificate Book and Marriage Register-Book. The entry shall be signed by both the parties and the Marriage Registrar present and attested by two credible witnesses.

Part VI - MARRIAGE OF INDIAN CHRISTIANS

60. On what conditions marriages of Indian Christians may be certificate —

Every marriage between Indian Christians applying for a certificate, shall, without the preliminary notice required under Part III, be certified under this Part, if the following conditions be fulfilled, and to otherwise: —

- (1) the age of the man intending to be married shall not be under twenty-one years, and the age of the woman intending to be married shall not be under eighteen years;
- (2) neither of the persons intending to be married shall have a wife or husband still living;
- (3) in the presence of a person licensed under section 9, and of at least two credible witnesses other than such person, each of the parties shall say to the other—

~I call upon these persons here present to witness that, I, A.B., in the presence of Almighty God, and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, do take thee, C.D., to be any lawful wedded wife or husband" or words to the like effect:

61. Grant of certificate.—

When, in respect to any marriage solemnized under this Part, the conditions prescribed in section 60 have been fulfilled, the person licensed as aforesaid, in whose presence the said declaration has made, shall, on the application of either of the parties to such marriage, and, on the payment of a fee of four annas, grant a certificate of the marriage.

The certificate shall be signed by such licensed person, and shall be received in any suit touching the validity of such marriage adds conclusive proof of its having been performed.

62. Keeping of register-book an deposit of extracted therefrom with Registrar-General.—

(1) Every person licensed under section 9 shall keep in English, or in the vernacular language in ordinary use in the district or State in which the marriage was solemnized, and in such form as the State Government by which he was licensed may from time to time prescribe, a register-book of all marriages solemnized under this Part in his presence, and shall deposit in the office of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriage for the territories under the administration of the said State Government, in such form and at such intervals as that Government may prescribe, true and duly authenticated extracts from his register-book of all entries made therein since the last of those intervals.

63. Searches in register-book and copies of entries.—

Every person licensed under this Act to grant certificates of marriages, and keeping a marriage-register-book under section 62 shall, at all reasonable times, allow search to be made in such book, and shall, on payment of the proper fee, give a copy, certified under his hand, of any entry therein.

64. Books in which marriages of Indian Christians under Part I or Part III are registered.
—

The provisions of section 62 and 63, as to the form of register-book depositing extracts therefrom, allowing searches thereof, and giving copies of the entries therein, shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to the books kept under section 37.

65. Part VI not to apply to Roman Catholics.—

This Part of this Act, except so much of sections 62 and 63 as are referred to in section 64, shall not apply to marriages between Roman Catholics.

Saving of certain marriages

But nothing herein contained shall invalidate any marriage celebrated between Roman Catholics under the provisions of Part V of Act No, 25 of 1864¹, previous to the twenty-third day of February, 1865.

COMMENTS

This part of the Act deals with marriages of Indian Christians. For the marriages among Indian Christians, there is no need of preliminary notice but it must be proved that the age of the bridegroom is not below eighteen years and that of the bride is not under fifteen years. Neither of the parties should have a wife or husband living. The parties to the marriage have to take oath in the name of Almighty God and in the name of Lard Jesus Christ before the Marriage Officer and at least two witnesses.

The Marriage Officer before whom the declaration has been made, shall grant a certificate of marriage and entries shall be made in the Register-Book maintained for this purpose.

Part VII - PENALTIES

66. False oath, declaration, notice or certificate for procuring marriage —

Whoever, for the purpose of procuring a marriage or licence of marriage, intentionally,—

(a) where an oath or declaration is required by this Act, or by any rule or custom of a Church according to the rites and ceremonies of which a marriage is intended to be solemnized, such Church being the Church of England or of Scotland or of Rome, makes a false oath or declaration, or

(b) where a notice or certificate is required by this Act, signs a false notice or certificate.

Shall be deemed to have committed the offence punishable under section 193 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (45 of 1860) with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and, at the discretion of the Court, with fine.

67. Forbidding by false personation, issue of certificate by Marriage Registrar.—

Whoever, forbids the issue, by a Marriage Registrar, of a certificate, by falsely representing himself to be a person whose consent to the marriage is required by law, knowing or believing such representation to be false, or not having reason to believe it to be true, shall be deemed guilty of the offence described in section 205 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (45 of 1860).

68. Solemnizing marriage without due authority.—

Whoever, not being authorized by section 5 of this Act to solemnize marriages, solemnizes or professes to solemnize, in the absence of Marriage Registrar of the district in which the ceremony takes place, a marriage between persons one or both of whom is or are a Christian or Christians, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to ten years, or (in lieu of a sentence, of imprisonment for seven years or upwards) with transportation for a term of not less than seven years, and not exceeding ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

69. Solemnizing marriage out of proper time, or without witnesses.—

Whoever knowingly and wilfully solemnizes a marriage between, one or both of whom is or are a Christian or Christians, at any time other than between the hours of six in the morning and seven in the evening, or in the absence of at least two credible witnesses other than the person solemnizing the marriage, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Saving of marriages solemnized under special licence

This section does not apply to marriages solemnized under special licences granted by the Anglican Bishop of the Diocese or by his Commissary, nor to marriages performed between the hours of seven in the evening and six in the morning by a Clergyman of the Church of Rome, when he has received the general or special licence in that behalf mentioned in section 10. Nor does this section apply to marriages solemnized by Clergyman of the Church of Scotland according to the rules, rites, ceremonies and customs of the Church of Scotland.

70. Solemnizing without notice or within fourteen days after notice, marriage with minor.

—

Any Minister of Religion licensed to solemnize marriages under this Act, who, without a notice in writing, or, when one of the parties to the marriage is a minor and the required consent of the parents or guardians to such marriage had not been obtained, within fourteen days after the receipt by him of notice of such marriage, knowingly and wilfully solemnizes a marriage under Part III, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

71. Issuing certificate, or marrying, without publication of notice.—

A Marriage Registrar under this Act, who commits any of the following offences:—

(1) knowingly and wilfully issues any certificate for marriage, or solemnizes any marriage, without publishing the notice of such marriage as directed by this Act;

Marrying after expiry of notice

(2) after the expiration of two months after the copy of the notice has been entered as required by section 40 in respect of any marriage, solemnizes such marriage;

Solemnizing marriage with minor within fourteen days, without authority of court or without sending copy of notice

(3) solemnizes, without an order of a competent court authorizing him to do so, any marriage, when one of the parties is a minor, before the expiration of fourteen days after the receipt of the notice of such marriage, or without sending, by the post or otherwise, a copy of such notice to the Senior Marriage Registrar of the district if there be more Marriage Registrars of the district than one, and if he himself be not the Senior Marriage Registrar;

Issuing certificate against authorized prohibition

(4) issues any certificate the issue of which has been prohibited, as in this Act provided, by any person authorized to prohibit the issue thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine.

72. Issuing certificate after expiry of notice, or, in case of minor, within fourteen days after notice, or against authorized prohibition.—

Any Marriage Registrar knowingly and wilfully issuing any certificate for marriage after the expiration of two months after the notice has been entered by him as aforesaid, or knowingly and wilfully issuing, without the order of a competent court authorizing him so to do, any certificate for marriage, where one of the parties intending marriage is a minor, before the expiration of fourteen days after the entry of such notice, or any certificate the issue of which has been forbidden as aforesaid by any person authorized in this behalf, shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 166 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (45 of 1860).

73. Persons authorized to; solemnize marriage (other than clergy of Churches of England, Scotland or Rome).—

Whoever being authorized under this Act to solemnize a marriage, an not being a Clergyman of the Church of England solemnizing a marriage after due publication of banns, or under a licence from the Anglican Bishop of the Diocese or a Surrogate duly authorized in that behalf, or, not being a Clergyman of the Church of Scotland, solemnizing a marriage according to the rules, rites, ceremonies and customs of that Church, or, not being a Clergyman of the Church of Rome, solemnizing a marriage according to the rites, rules, ceremonies and customs of that Church,

Issuing certificate, or marrying, without publishing notice, or after expiry of certificate

Knowingly and wilfully issues any certificate for marriage under this Act, or solemnizes any marriage between such persons as aforesaid, without publishing, or causing to be affixed, the notice of such marriage as directed in Part III of this Act, or after the expiration of two months after the certificate has been issued by him;

Issuing certificate for, or solemnizing, marriage with minor, within fourteen days after notice

Or knowingly and wilfully issues any certificate for marriage, or solemnizes a marriage between such persons when one of the persons intending marriage is a minor, before the expiration of fourteen days after the receipt of notice of such marriage, or without sending, by the post or otherwise, a copy of such notice to the Marriage Registrar, or, if there be more Marriage Registrars than one, to the Senior Marriage Registrar of the district;

Issuing certificate authorizedly forbidden; or knowingly and wilfully issues any certificate the issue of which has been forbidden, under this Act, by any person authorized to forbid the issue;

74. Unlicensed person granting certificate pretending to be licensed —

Whoever, not being licensed to grant a certificate of marriage under Part VI of this Act, grants such certificate intending thereby to make it appear that he is so licensed, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Whoever, being licensed to grant certificate of marriage under Part VI of this Act, without just cause refused or wilfully neglects or omits, to perform any of the duties imposed upon him by that Part shall be punished with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees.

75. Destroying or falsifying register-book.—

Whoever, by himself or another, wilfully destroys or injures any register-book or the counterfoil certificate thereof, or any part thereof, or any authenticated extract therefrom, or falsely makes or counterfeits any part of such register-book or counterfoil certificates, or wilfully inserts any false entry in any such register-book or counterfoil certificate or authenticated extract, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

76. Limitation of prosecutions under Act.—

The prosecution for every offence punishable under this Act shall be commenced within two years after the offence is committed.

COMMENTS

This part of the Act, deals with penalties which can be imposed on the persons making false declarations or signing false notice or certificate. These acts have been made punishable under section 193 of the Indian Penal Code. The punishment provided is upto three years. The making of a false declaration, must be intentional.

Solemnizing marriage without due authority has also been made punishable under the Act and the punishment provided extends to ten years. Similarly if a person solemnizes a marriage under this Act at any time other than between the hours of six in the morning and seven in the evening or in the absence of two credible witnesses, he is guilty of an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine. There is no express prohibition preventing a person professing Christianity from marrying a non-Christian by non-Christian ceremony.

Part VIII - MISCELLANEOUS

77. What matters need not be proved in respect of marriage in accordance with Act —

Whenever any marriage has been solemnized in accordance with the provisions of section 4 and 5, it shall not be void merely on account of any irregularity in respect of any of the following matters, namely:—

- (1) any statement made in regard to the dwelling of the persons married, or to the consent of any person whose consent to such marriage is required by law,
- (2) the notice of the marriage;

- (3) the certificate or translation thereof;
- (4) the time and place at which the marriage has been solemnized;
- (5) the registration of the marriage.

78. Corrections or errors.—

Every person charged with the duty of registering any marriage, who discover any error in the form or substance of any such entry, may, within one month next after the discovery of such error, in the presence of the person married, or in case of their death or absence, in the presence of two other credible witnesses, correct the error by entry in the margin, without any alteration of the original entry, and shall sign the marginal entry, and add thereto the date of such correction, and such person make the like marginal entry in the certificate thereof. And every entry made under this section shall be attested by the witnesses in whose presence it was made. And, in case such certificate has been already sent to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, such person shall make and send in like manner a separate certificate of the original erroneous entry, and of the marginal correction therein made.

79. Searches and copies of entries.—

Every person solemnizing a marriage under this Act, and hereby required to register the same, and every Marriage Registrar or Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages having the custody for the time being of any register of marriages, or any certificate, or duplicate, or copies of the certificate, under this Act, shall, on payment of the proper fees, at all reasonable times, allow searches to be made in such register, or for such certificate, or duplicate or copies, and give a copy under his hand of any entry in the same.

80. Certified copy of entry in marriage-register, *etc.*, to be evidence —

Every certified copy, purporting to be signed by the person entrusted under this Act with the custody of any marriage-register or certificate, or duplicate, required to be kept or delivered under this Act, of any entry of a marriage in such register or of any such certificate or duplicate, shall be received evidence of the marriage purporting to be so entered, or of the facts purporting to be so certified therein, without further proof of such register or certificate, or duplicate, or of any entry therein, respectively, or of such copy.

81. Certificates of certain marriages to be sent to Central Government —

The Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages shall, at the end of every quarter in each year, select, from the certificates of marriages forwarded to him, during such quarter, the certificates of the marriages of which the Government by whom he was appointed may desire that evidence shall be transmitted to England, and shall send the same certificate, signed by him to the Central Government.

82. State Government to prescribe fees.—

Fees shall be chargeable under this Act for—

receiving and publishing notices of marriages;
issuing certificates for marriages by Marriage Registrars, and registering marriages by the same;
entering protest against, or prohibitions of, the issue of certificate for marriage by the said Registrars; searching register-books or certificates, or duplicates, of copies thereof; giving copies of entries in the same under sections 63 and 79,

the State Government shall fix the amount of such fees respectively, and may from time to time vary or remit them either generally or in special cases, as to it may seem fit.

83. Power to make rules —

(1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules in regard to the disposal of the fees mentioned in section 82, the supply of register book, and the preparation and submission of returns of marriage solemnized under this Act.

(2) Every rule made by the State Government under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before the State Legislature.

84. Power to prescribe fees and rules for Indian States —

Rep. by A.O. 1950.

85. Power to declare who shall be District Judge —

The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare who shall, in any place to which this Act applies, be deemed to be the District Judge.

86. Powers and functions exercisable as regards Indian States.—

Rep. by A.O. 1950.

87. Saving of Consular marriages.—

Nothing in this Act applies to any marriage performed by any Minister, Consul, or Consular Agent between subjects of the State which he represents and according to the laws of such State.

88. Non-validation of marriages within prohibited degrees.—

Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to validate any marriage which the personal law applicable to either of the parties forbids him or her to enter into.

COMMENTS

This part of the Act, deals with miscellaneous matters concerning the marriages under this Act. The marriage solemnised under this Act does not become void on account of minor irregularities. The errors can be corrected. Section 88 of the Act does not validate a marriage which would be invalid elsewhere as being against the personal law.

SCHEDULE I

(See sections 12 and 38)

NOTICE OF MARRIAGE

To a Minister [or Registrar or

I hereby give you notice that a marriage is intended to be had, within three calendar months from the date hereof, between me and the other party herein named and described (that is to say):—

Names Condition Rank or Age Dwelling Length of Church, chapel District in profession place residence or place of which the worship in other party which the resides, marriage is to when the be solemnized parties dwell in different districts

*James Widower Carpenter Of 16, Clive 23 days
Smith full age Street Free Church*

——— of Scotland

*Martha Spinster ——— Minor 20, Has- More than Church,
Green tings a month Calcutta
Street*

Witness my hand, this.....day of.....seventy two.

(Signed) JAMES SMITH

[The *Italics* in this schedule are to be filled up, as the case may be, and the blank division thereof is only to be filled up when one of the parties lives in another district.

SCHEDULE II

(See sections 24 and 50)

CERTIFICATE OF RECEIPT OF NOTICE

I,.....do hereby certify that, on the day of,.....notice was duly entered in my Marriage Notice Book of the marriage in attended between the parties therein named and described, delivered under the hand of....., one of the parties (that is to say):—

Names Condition Rank or Age Dwelling Length of Church, chapel District in profession place residence or place of which the worship in other party which the resides, marriage is to when the be solemnized parties dwell in different districts

*James Widower Carpenter Of 16, Clive 23 days
Smith full age Street Free Church*

———— of *Scotland*

Martha Spinster ——— *Minor 20, Has- More than Church,
Green tings a month Calcutta
Street*

and that the declaration, or oath required by section 17 or 41 of the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, has been duly made by the said (*James Smith*).

Date of notice entered The issue of this certificate has not been prohibited by any person authorized to forbid the

Date of Certificate given issue thereof.

Witness my hand, this.....day of.....seventy-two

(Signed)

This certificate will be void, unless the marriage is solemnized on or before the.....day of.....

[The italics in the schedule are to be filled up, as the case may be, and the blank division thereof only to be filled up when one of the parties lives in another district.

SCHEDULE III
(See sections 28 and 31)

FORM OF REGISTER OF MARRIAGES

Quarterly Returns of Marriages for

The Archdeaconry of Calcutta,
Madras,
Bombay,

I....., Registrar of the Archdeaconry of Calcutta,
Madras, do hereby
Bombay,

certify that the annexed are correct copies of the originals and Official Quarterly
Returns of Marriage within the Archdeaconry of Calcutta, as made
and transmitted to me for the quarter Madras,

Bombay,
commencing the.....day of.....ending the.....day of.....in the year of Our Lord.....

Signature of Registrar)

Registrar of the Archdeaconry of Calcutta,
Madras,
Bombay,

Allahabad,
Barrackpore,
MARRIAGES solemnized at Bareilly,
Calcutta, etc. etc.

WHEN MARRIED NAME OF PARTIES Condition

_____ Age

Year Month Day Christian Surname

Rank or Residence Father's By banns Signature Signature Signature
profession at the time name and of license of the of two or of the person
of marriage surname parties more solemnizing
witnesses the marriage
present

SCHEDULE IV

(See sections 32 and 54)

MARRIAGE REGISTER BOOK

Num- When married Name of parties Age Condi Rank Resi- Father's ber
_____ tion or prof dence name

Chris- Sur- fession at the and
tian name time of surname

name marriage

Day Month Year

*James White 26 Wido- Car- Agra William
years wer penter White*

*Martha Duncan 17 Spins- — Agra John
years ter Duncan*

Married in the.....

This marriage was James White John Smith
solemnized between us in the presence of
Marth Duncan, John Green,

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

Num- When married Name of parties Age Condi Rank Resi- Father's
ber _____ tion or prof dence name

Chris- Sur- fession at the and
tian name time of surname

name marriage

Day Month Year

*James White 26 Wido- Car- Agra William
years wer penter White*

*Martha Duncan 17 Spins- — Agra John
years ter Duncan*

Married in the.....

This marriage was James White John Smith
solemnized between us in the presence of
Marth Duncan, John Green,

SCHEDULE V

Enactments Repealed.

Rep. by the Repealing Act, 1938 (1 of 1938), Sec. 2 and Sch. Pt. I