

Uganda

## Marriage Act

### Chapter 251

Legislation as at 10 March 2014

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# Uganda

## Marriage Act

### Chapter 251

Commenced on 1 April 1904

*[This is the version of this document from 10 March 2014.]*

*[Note: The version of the Act as at 31 December 2000 was revised and consolidated by the Law Reform Commission of Uganda. All subsequent amendments have been researched and applied by Laws.Africa for ULII.]*

*[Amended by [Marriage Act \(Amendment of Second Schedule\) Order, 2005 \(Statutory Instrument 56 of 2005\)](#) on 17 June 2005]  
[Amended by [Marriage \(Amendment of Second Schedule\) Order, 2014 \(Statutory Instrument 25 of 2014\)](#) on 10 March 2014]*

**An Act to make provision for marriages.**

#### 1. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

- (a) “**district**” means a marriage district constituted under this Act;
- (b) “**registrar**” means a registrar of marriages, and includes a deputy registrar when acting as registrar;
- (c) “**Registrar General**” means any officer appointed to act as Registrar General for the purposes of this Act.

#### 2. Constitution of marriage districts

The Minister shall, by statutory order, divide Uganda into districts for the purposes of this Act, herein referred to as marriage districts, and may, from time to time by like order, alter the marriage districts, either by alteration of boundaries or by union or subdivision of districts, or by the formation of new districts.

#### 3. Appointment of registrars

- (1) The Minister shall, from time to time, appoint a fit and proper person to be the registrar of marriages for each marriage district, and may revoke such appointments; and may also from time to time appoint a deputy registrar of marriages for any district to act in the absence or during the illness or incapacity of the registrar, and may revoke such appointment.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, absence means absence from the place at which, as provided by [section 4](#), the office of the registrar is situate.

#### 4. Offices of registrars

Every registrar shall have an office at such place in his or her district as the Minister shall from time to time direct.

## 5. Places of worship to be licensed

The Minister may license any place of public worship to be a place for the celebration of marriages, and may at any time cancel such licence, and in either case he or she shall give notice thereof in the *Gazette*.

### *Preliminaries to marriage*

## 6. Notice of marriage

Whenever any persons desire to marry, one of the parties to the intended marriage shall sign and give to the registrar of the district in which the marriage is intended to take place a notice in Form A in the First Schedule to this Act.

## 7. Signature of notice by person unable to write or to understand English

If the person giving the notice of marriage is unable to write or is insufficiently acquainted with the English language, or both, then it shall be sufficient if he or she places his or her mark or cross to the notice in the presence of some literate person who shall attest to it, which attestation shall be in Form B in the First Schedule to this Act.

## 8. Registrars to supply forms of notice free of cost

Every registrar shall supply forms of notice gratuitously to any persons applying for them.

## 9. Notice to be entered in Marriage Notice Book and published

- (1) Upon receipt of a marriage notice the registrar shall cause it to be entered in a book to be called the "Marriage Notice Book" which may be inspected during office hours without fee.
- (2) The registrar shall also publish the notice by causing a copy of it to be affixed on the outer door of his or her office, and to be kept exposed there until he or she grants his or her certificate under [section 10](#), or until three months have elapsed.

## 10. Registrar to issue certificate on proof of conditions by affidavit

- (1) The registrar, at any time after the expiration of twenty-one days and before the expiration of three months from the date of the notice, upon payment of the prescribed fee, shall thereupon issue his or her certificate in Form C in the First Schedule to this Act; except that he or she shall not issue the certificate until he or she has been satisfied by affidavit—
  - (a) that one of the parties has been resident within the district in which the marriage is intended to be celebrated at least fifteen days preceding the granting of the certificate;
  - (b) that each of the parties to the intended marriage (not being a widower or widow) is twenty-one years old, or that, if he or she is under that age, the consent hereafter made requisite has been obtained in writing and is annexed to the affidavit;
  - (c) that there is not any impediment of kindred or affinity, or any other lawful hindrance to the marriage;
  - (d) that neither of the parties to the intended marriage is married by customary law to any person other than the person with whom such marriage is proposed to be contracted.
- (2) The affidavit required by subsection (1) may be sworn before the registrar or before a magistrate.
- (3) The registrar or magistrate taking the affidavit required by subsection (1) shall explain to the person making it the prohibited degrees of kindred and affinity and the penalties which may be incurred under other provisions of this Act.

## 11. Marriage to take place within three months after date of notice

If the marriage shall not take place within three months after the date of the notice, the notice and all proceedings consequent on it shall be void; and fresh notice must be given before the parties can lawfully marry.

## 12. Minister's power to grant licence to marry

The Minister, upon proof being given to him or her by affidavit that there is no lawful impediment to the proposed marriage, and that the necessary consent, if any, to the marriage has been obtained, may, if he or she shall think fit, dispense with the giving of notice, and with the issue of the certificate of the registrar, and may grant his or her licence, which shall be according to Form D in the First Schedule to this Act, authorising the celebration of a marriage between the parties named in that licence by a registrar, or by a recognised minister of some religious denomination or body.

## 13. Caveat may be entered against issue of certificate

Any person whose consent to a marriage is required by this Act, or who may know of any just cause why the marriage should not take place, may enter a caveat against the issue of the registrar's certificate, by writing at any time before its issue the word "Forbidden" opposite to the entry of the notice in the Marriage Notice Book, and appending to the word his or her name and place of abode, and the grounds upon or by reason of which he or she claims to forbid the issue of the certificate; and the registrar shall not issue his or her certificate until the caveat shall be removed under [sections 14 to sections 16](#).

## 14. When caveat entered question to be referred to court

Whenever a caveat is entered against the issue of a certificate, the registrar shall refer the matter to the High Court, and that court shall thereupon summon the parties to the intended marriage, and the person by whom the caveat is entered, and shall require the person by whom the caveat is entered to show cause why the registrar should not issue his or her certificate, and shall hear and determine the case in a summary way, and the decision of the High Court shall be final.

## 15. Removal of caveat

- (1) If the High Court decides that the certificate ought to be issued, the judge shall remove the caveat by cancelling the word "Forbidden" in the Marriage Notice Book in ink, and writing in the Marriage Notice Book, immediately below that entry and cancellation, the words "Cancelled by order of the High Court" and signing his or her name to the removal of the caveat.
- (2) The registrar shall then issue his or her certificate and the marriage may proceed as if the caveat had not been entered, but the time that has elapsed between the entering and the removal of the caveat shall not be computed in the period of three months specified in [section 10](#).

## 16. Compensation and costs

The High Court may award compensation and costs to the party injured, if it appears that a caveat was entered on insufficient grounds.

### *Consent to marriage in certain cases necessary*

## 17. Consent to marriage of minors

If either party to an intended marriage, not being a widower or widow, is under twenty-one years of age, the written consent of the father, or if he is dead or of unsound mind or absent from Uganda, of the mother, or if both are dead or of unsound mind or absent from Uganda, of the guardian of that party,

must be produced annexed to the affidavit as required by [section 10](#) before a licence can be granted or a certificate issued.

#### **18. Signature of consent by person unable to write or to understand English**

- (1) If the person required to sign a consent to marriage is unable to write, or is insufficiently acquainted with the English language, or both, then he or she shall sign his or her consent by placing his or her mark or cross to the consent in the presence of any judge, magistrate, justice of the peace, district commissioner, chief registrar of the High Court, registrar of marriages, registrar of deeds, medical officer in the service of the Government or minister of religion.
- (2) The signature made under subsection (1) shall be attested by a person specified in that subsection in Form B in the First Schedule to this Act.

#### **19. Consent where no parent or guardian capable of consenting**

If there is no parent or guardian of the party under twenty-one years of age residing in Uganda and capable of consenting to the marriage, then the Minister or a judge of the High Court may consent to the marriage in writing, upon being satisfied after due inquiry that the marriage is a proper one; and that consent shall be as effectual as if the father or mother had consented.

### ***Celebration of marriage***

#### **20. Marriage in licensed place of worship by recognised minister**

- (1) Marriages may be celebrated in any licensed place of worship by any recognised minister of the church, denomination or body to which the place of worship belongs, and according to the rites or usages of marriages observed in that church, denomination or body.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the marriage shall be celebrated with open doors between the hours of eight o'clock in the forenoon and six o'clock in the afternoon, and in the presence of two or more witnesses besides the officiating minister.

#### **21. Minister not to celebrate marriage if impediment nor without licence, etc.**

A minister shall not celebrate any marriage if he or she knows of any just impediment to the marriage, nor until the parties deliver to him or her the registrar's certificate or the Minister's licence.

#### **22. Place of celebration of marriage**

A minister shall not celebrate any marriage except in a building which has been duly licensed by the Minister, or in such place as the Minister's licence may direct.

#### **23. Registrars etc. to be provided with books of certificates**

- (1) The Minister shall cause to be printed and delivered to the several registrars and to the recognised ministers of licensed places of worship, books of marriage certificates in duplicate and with counterfoils in Form E in the First Schedule to this Act.
- (2) The books of marriage certificates shall be kept by the several registrars and the recognised ministers for the time being of the licensed places of worship under lock and key and be in custody of those registrars and ministers respectively.

#### **24. Entries to be made in marriage certificate**

Immediately after the celebration of any marriage by a minister, the officiating minister shall fill out in duplicate a marriage certificate with the particulars required by Form E, and state also and enter in the



counterfoil the number of the certificate, the date of the marriage, names of the parties and the names of the witnesses.

## 25. Signature of certificate in duplicate

- (1) The certificate shall then be signed in duplicate by the officiating minister, by the parties and by two or more witnesses to the marriage.
- (2) The minister having also signed his or her name to the counterfoil, shall sever the duplicate certificate therefrom, and shall deliver one certificate to the parties, and shall within seven days thereafter transmit the other to the registrar of marriages for the district in which the marriage takes place, who shall file it in his or her office.

## 26. Marriage in a registrar's office

After the issue of a certificate under section 10 or 15, or of a licence under section 12, the parties may, if they think fit, contract a marriage before a registrar, in the presence of two witnesses in his or her office, with open doors, between the hours of ten o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon, and in the following manner—

The registrar, after production to him or her of the certificate or licence, shall, either directly or through an interpreter, address the parties thus—

“Do I understand that you (name), and you (name), come here for the purpose of becoming man and wife?”

If the parties answer in the affirmative, he or she shall proceed thus—

“Know you that by the public taking of each other as man and wife in my presence, and in the presence of the persons now here, and by the subsequent attestation of that taking by signing your names to that effect, you become legally married to each other, although no other rite of a civil or religious nature shall take place, and that this marriage cannot be dissolved during your lifetime, except by a valid judgment of divorce; and if either of you before the death of the other shall contract another marriage while this remains undissolved, you will be thereby guilty of bigamy and liable to punishment for that offence.”

Each of the parties shall then say to the other—

“I call upon all persons here present to witness that I, (name), do take thee, (name), to be my lawful wife (or husband)”.

## 27. Marriage certificate to be signed

The registrar shall then fill out, and he or she and the parties and witnesses shall sign, the certificate of the marriage in duplicate, and the registrar shall then fill out and sign the counterfoil as prescribed in section 24 in the case of a marriage by a minister, and shall deliver one certificate to the parties and shall file the other in his or her office.

## 28. Marriage under Minister's licence

Whenever the Minister's licence authorises the celebration of marriage at a place other than a licensed place of worship, or the office of a registrar of marriages, the registrar of the district in which the marriage is intended to take place, upon the production of the licence, shall deliver to the person producing it a blank certificate of marriage in duplicate, and the minister or registrar celebrating the marriage shall fill out the certificate, and observe strictly all the formalities hereinbefore prescribed as to marriages in a licensed place of worship, or registrar's office, as the case may be.

## 29. Conversion of marriage by customary law into legally binding marriage

Whenever after the 1st July, 1914, any persons already married or professing to be married to each other by customary law desire to convert that marriage into a marriage by which they are legally bound to each

other as man and wife so long as both shall live by a ceremony before a registrar, such provisions of this Act as apply to a marriage before a registrar under [section 26](#) shall apply to the conversion as though it were a marriage under that section; but in that case the Forms G, H, I, J and K in the First Schedule to this Act shall be used in lieu of the Forms A, C, D, E and F and the following forms shall be used in lieu of, and shall have the same effect as, those provided in [section 26](#).

In lieu of the first form set out there, the following—

“Do I understand that you (name), and you (name), have been heretofore married to each other by customary law and that you come here for the purpose of binding yourselves legally to each other as man and wife so long as both of you shall live?”

In lieu of the second form set out there, the following—

“Whereas you (name), and you (name), profess that you have been heretofore married to each other by customary law and whereas that marriage does not bind you by law to each other as man and wife so long as both of you shall live and whereas you desire to bind yourselves legally each to the other as man and wife so long as both of you shall live: Know you that by the public taking of each other as man and wife so long as both of you shall live, in my presence and in the presence of the persons now here, and by the subsequent attestation of that taking by signing your names to that effect, you become legally bound to each other as man and wife so long as both of you shall live although no other rite of a civil or religious nature shall now take place, and that hereafter your marriage cannot be dissolved during your lifetime, except by a valid judgment of divorce; and if either of you before the death of the other shall illegally contract another marriage while your marriage to each other remains undissolved, you will be thereby guilty of bigamy, and liable to punishment for that offence.”

And in lieu of the third form set out there, the following—

“I call upon all persons here present to witness that I, (name), take you (name), to be my lawful wife (or husband) so long as both of us shall live.”

### **30. Facilities for marriages between British subjects resident in Uganda and British subjects resident in England, etc.**

- (1) Where marriage is intended to be solemnised or contracted in Uganda between a British subject resident in Uganda and a British subject resident in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland, a certificate of marriage issued in England by a superintendent registrar or a certificate for marriage issued by a registrar, or a certificate of proclamation of banns in Scotland, or a certificate for marriage issued by a registrar in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland shall in Uganda have the same effect as a certificate for marriage issued by a registrar under [section 10](#).
- (2) Where a marriage is intended to be solemnised or contracted in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland, as the case may be, between a British subject resident therein and a British subject resident in Uganda, a certificate for marriage may be issued by a registrar under [section 10](#) in the like manner as if the marriage was to be solemnised or contracted in circumstances requiring the issue of such a certificate and as if both British subjects were resident in Uganda.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, “certificate for marriage” in reference to certificates issued in Scotland shall mean a certificate of due publication of notice of intention to marry.

### ***Registry and evidence of marriages***

### **31. Marriage certificates to be registered**

- (1) The registrar of marriages in each district shall forthwith register in a book to be kept in his or her office for that purpose, and to be called “The Marriage Register Book”, every certificate of marriage which shall be filed in his or her office, according to Form F in the First Schedule to this Act; and every such entry shall be made in the order of date from the beginning to the end of the book, and

every entry so made shall be dated on the day on which it is so entered, and shall be signed by the registrar, and the book shall be indexed in such manner as is best suited for easy reference to it.

- (2) The registrar shall at all reasonable times allow searches to be made in the Marriage Register Book, and shall give certified copies from it upon payment of the prescribed fee.
- (3) Within ten days after the last day of each month, every registrar shall send to the Registrar General a certified copy of all entries he or she made during the preceding month in the Marriage Register Book of his or her district, and the Registrar General shall file the copy in his or her office.

### **32. Correction of clerical errors in marriage certificates**

Any registrar, when authorised by the Registrar General, may correct any clerical error in any certificate of marriage filed in his or her office, upon production to him or her of the certificate delivered to the parties, and shall authenticate every correction by his or her signature and the date of the correction.

### **33. Evidence of marriage**

Every certificate of marriage which shall have been filed in the office of the registrar of any district, or a copy of it, purporting to be signed and certified as a true copy by the registrar of that district for the time being, and every entry in a Marriage Register Book or a copy of it, certified as aforesaid, shall be admissible as evidence of the marriage to which it relates, in any court of justice or before any person now or hereafter having by law or consent of parties authority to hear, receive and examine evidence.

## ***Invalid marriages***

### **34. Circumstances invalidating marriage**

- (1) No marriage in Uganda shall be valid which, if celebrated in England, would be null and void on the ground of kindred or affinity, or where either of the parties to it at the time of the celebration of the marriage is married by customary law to any person other than the person with whom the marriage is had.
- (2) A marriage shall be null and void if both parties knowingly and wilfully acquiesce in its celebration —
  - (a) in any place other than the office of a registrar of marriages or a licensed place of worship, except where authorised by the Minister's licence;
  - (b) under a false name or names;
  - (c) without the registrar's certificate of notice or Minister's licence duly issued; or
  - (d) by a person not being a recognised minister of some religious denomination or body, or a registrar of marriages.
- (3) No marriage shall, after celebration, be deemed invalid by reason that any provision of this Act, other than the foregoing, has not been complied with.

### **35. Marriages under this Act valid**

All marriages celebrated under this Act shall be good and valid in law to all intents and purposes.

### **36. Marriages under customary law**

Any person who is married under this Act, or whose marriage is declared by this Act to be valid, shall be incapable, during the continuance of that marriage, of contracting a valid marriage under any customary law, but, except as aforesaid, nothing in this Act shall affect the validity of any marriage contracted under or in accordance with any customary law, or in any manner applied to marriages so contracted.

**37. Certain expenses to be defrayed from public funds**

The Minister may defray out of monies provided by Parliament all proper expenses connected with the transmission or delivery of the marriage registers, or which may otherwise become necessary to be incurred in carrying out this Act.

***Expenses and fees*****38. Fees**

- (1) The fees specified in the Second Schedule to this Act shall be paid to the registrars for the several matters to which they are applicable and shall be paid by them into the Consolidated Fund.
- (2) The Minister may, by statutory order, amend the Second Schedule to this Act.

**39. Fee may be remitted**

The Minister may, when he or she is satisfied of the poverty of the parties, reduce the amount of the fees specified in the Second Schedule, or remit them altogether; and, if they have been paid into the Consolidated Fund, order their refund.

**40. Minister may receive customary fees**

This Act shall not preclude a minister from receiving the fees ordinarily paid to a minister of his or her denomination for the celebration of marriage.

***Offences and penalties*****41. Bigamy**

Any person who commits bigamy is liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years.

**42. Marriage with a person previously married**

Any person who, being unmarried, goes through the ceremony of marriage with a person whom he or she knows to be married to another person, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years.

**43. Making false declarations, etc. for marriage**

Any person who in any declaration, certificate, licence, document or statement by law to be made or issued for the purposes of a marriage, declares, enters, certifies or states any material matter which is false, shall, if he or she does so without having taken reasonable means to ascertain the truth or falsity of that matter, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year, or shall, if he or she does so knowing that the matter is false, be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years.

**44. False pretence of impediment to marriage**

Any person who endeavours to prevent a marriage by pretence that his or her consent to it is required by law, or that any person whose consent is so required does not consent, or that there is any legal impediment to the performing of the marriage, shall, if he or she does so knowing that the pretence is false or without having reason to believe that it is true, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years.

**45. Unlawfully performing marriage ceremony**

Any person who performs or witnesses as a marriage officer the ceremony of marriage, knowing that he or she is not duly qualified to do so, or that any of the matters required by law for the validity of the marriage has not happened or been performed, so that the marriage is void or unlawful on any ground, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years.

**46. Wilful neglect of duty to fill up or transmit certificate of marriage**

Any person who, being under a duty to fill out the certificate of marriage celebrated by him or her, or its counterfoil, or to transmit the certificate to the registrar of marriages, wilfully fails to perform that duty, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years.

**47. Personation in marriage**

Any person who personates any other person in marriage, or marries under a false name or description, with intent to deceive the other party to the marriage, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years.

**48. Fictitious marriage**

Any person who goes through the ceremony of marriage, or any ceremony which he or she represents to be a ceremony of marriage, knowing that the marriage is void on any ground, and that the other person believes it to be valid, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years.

**49. Contracting marriage when already married by customary law**

Any person who contracts a marriage under this Act, or any modification or reenactment of this Act, being at the time married in accordance with customary law to any person other than the person with whom such marriage is contracted, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years.

**50. Contracting marriage by customary law when already married under this Act**

Any person who, having contracted marriage under this Act or any modification or reenactment of this Act, during the continuance of that marriage contracts a marriage in accordance with customary law, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years.

**51. Forms**

The forms contained in the First Schedule to this Act may be used in the cases to which they are applicable, with such alterations as may be necessary.

**First Schedule (Section 6)****Forms*****Republic of Uganda******Form A******Notice of Marriage***

***The Marriage Act***

To the registrar of marriages for the \_\_\_\_\_ district of Uganda.

I give you notice a marriage is intended to be had within three months from the date of this notice between me, that the the other party named in the notice.

| Name       | Condition           | Occupation, rank or profession | Age | Dwelling or place of abode | Consent (if any) and by whom given |
|------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Bridegroom | Bachelor or widower |                                |     |                            |                                    |
| Bride      | Spinster or widow   |                                |     |                            |                                    |

Witness my hand, \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

Signature

***Section 7******Republic of Uganda******Form B******Form of Attestation******The Marriage Act***

Signed by the said \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, this notice having been first read over to him/her, [or, read over and truly

interpreted to him/her in the \_\_\_\_\_ language] by

\_\_\_\_\_.

He/she seemed to understand the notice and made his/her mark to it in my presence.

Signature

***Section 10******Republic of Uganda******Form C******Registrar's Certificate******The Marriage Act***

I, \_\_\_\_\_, registrar of marriages in the \_\_\_\_\_ district of Uganda, certify that on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_, notice was duly entered in the Marriage Notice Book of this district of the marriage intended between the parties named and described in this certificate, the notice being delivered under the hand of \_\_\_\_\_, one of the parties.

| Name    | Condition | Occupation, rank or profession | Age | Consent | Dwelling | Length of residence |
|---------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----|---------|----------|---------------------|
| (Man)   | Bachelor  |                                |     |         |          |                     |
| (Woman) | Spinster  |                                |     |         |          |                     |

Date of notice entered \_\_\_\_\_ Date of certificate given \_\_\_\_\_

No caveat has been entered against the issue of the certificate; or A caveat was entered against the issue of this certificate on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_, but it has been cancelled.

Witness my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar of marriage District

Note: This certificate will be void unless the marriage is solemnised on or before the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_

## **Section 12**

### **Republic of Uganda**

#### **Form D**

#### **Special Licence**

#### **The Marriage Act**

Whereas \_\_\_\_\_ (name)

and \_\_\_\_\_ (name) desire to intermarry, and sufficient cause has been shown to me why the preliminaries required by the Marriage Act should be dispensed with:

Now, therefore, in pursuance of that Act, I dispense with the giving of notice and the issue of the certificate prescribed by the Act, and authorise any registrar of marriages, or recognised minister of some religious denomination or body to celebrate marriage between \_\_\_\_\_ (name) and \_\_\_\_\_ (name), at \_\_\_\_\_ (place of celebration), within \_\_\_\_\_ days from the date of this licence.

The marriage may be celebrated by a registrar of marriages between the hours of ten o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon, or by the recognised minister between the hours of eight o'clock in the forenoon and six o'clock in the afternoon.

Given under my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

Minister

## **Sections 23, 24**

**Form E**

|                          |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>No.</b>               | <b>Certificate of marriage - Uganda</b>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Date of marriage:</b> | Uganda Marriages celebrated in the at _____<br>_____ in Uganda.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          | Name of husband   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          | Name of wife  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          | Witnesses   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          | Married at by _____ (or before) me<br>_____<br>Minister or Registrar<br>This marriage _____<br>was celebrated<br>between us _____<br>In the presence of us<br>as witnesses<br>_____ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Section 31****Republic of Uganda****Form F****Marriage Register Book****(The Marriage Act)**



| When married | Names and surnames | Whether full age or minor | Condition | Occupation | Residence | Father's name and occupation |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------------------------|
|              |                    |                           |           |            |           |                              |

Entered this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_, at the district registry of marriages at \_\_\_\_\_

Registrar

### ***Section 29***

### ***Republic of Uganda***

### ***Form G***

### ***Notice of conversion of marriage by customary law into legally binding marriage***

### ***(The Marriage Act)***

To the registrar of marriages for the \_\_\_\_\_ district of Uganda.

I give you notice that I, the undersigned, and the other party named in this notice, being married to each other by customary law intend within three months from the date of this notice to convert that marriage into a marriage by which we shall be legally bound to each other as man and wife so long as both shall live.

| Name    | Occupation, rank or profession | Age | Dwelling or place of abode | Consent (if any) and by whom given |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (Man)   |                                |     |                            |                                    |
| (Woman) |                                |     |                            |                                    |

Witness my hand, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

### ***Republic of Uganda***

### ***Section 29***

### ***Form H***

### ***Registrar's Certificate***

### ***(The Marriage Act)***

I \_\_\_\_\_, registrar of marriages in the \_\_\_\_\_ district of Uganda, certify that on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_, notice was duly entered in the Marriage Notice Book of this district of the intended conversion by the parties named and described in this certificate of their former marriage by customary law into a marriage by which they shall be legally bound to each other as man and wife so long as both shall live, the notice being delivered under the hand of, one of the parties.

| Name    | Occupation, rank or profession | Age | Consent | Dwelling | Length of residence |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----|---------|----------|---------------------|
| (Man)   |                                |     |         |          |                     |
| (Woman) |                                |     |         |          |                     |

Date of notice entered \_\_\_\_ Date of certificate given \_\_\_\_\_

No caveat has been entered against the issue of the certificate; or A caveat was entered against the issue of this certificate on the day of \_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_, but it has been cancelled.

Witness my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

Registrar of Marriages District

NOTE—This certificate will be void unless the ceremony of converting the marriage by customary law into a legally binding marriage is performed on or before the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

## **Section 29**

### **Republic of Uganda**

#### **Form I**

#### **Special Licence**

#### **The Marriage Act**

Whereas \_\_\_\_\_ (name) and  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name),

professing themselves to be already married to each other by customary law, desire to convert that marriage into a marriage by which they shall be legally bound to each other as man and wife so long as both shall live and whereas sufficient cause has been shown to me why the preliminaries required by the Marriage Act should be dispensed with:

Now, therefore, in pursuance of that Act, I dispense with the giving of notice and the issue of the certificate prescribed, and authorise the registrar of marriages for the \_\_\_\_\_ district to perform the ceremony by which, under the Marriage Act the marriage by customary law shall be converted into a marriage by which the parties shall be legally bound to each other as man and wife so long as both shall live.

The ceremony may be performed by the registrar of marriages between the hours of ten o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon.

Given under my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

***Minister***

***Form J***

***Section 29***

|   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Uganda<br/>No. ____</b>  | <b>Certificate of marriage - Uganda</b>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Date of conversion of marriage by customary law into legally binding marriage | Marriage by customary law converted in to legally binding marriage in the office of the register at _____ in Uganda   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Name of husband   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Name of wife  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Witnesses   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Witnesses   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Marriage by customary converted into marriage by which parties are legally bound to each other as man and wife so long as both shall live at<br>_____ before me.<br>Register<br>Our marriage by customary law was converted into marriage by which we are legally bound to each other as man and wife so long as we both shall live.<br>_____ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | In the presence of us<br>As witnesses.<br>_____   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Section 29****Republic of Uganda**

**Form K****Marriage Register Book****The Marriage Act**

| <b>Date of conversion of marriage by customary law into legally binding marriage</b> | <b>Names and surnames</b> | <b>Whether full age or minor</b> | <b>Condition</b> | <b>Occupation</b> | <b>Residence</b> | <b>Father's name and occupation</b> |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
|  |                           |                                  |                  |                   |                  |                                     |

Entered this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_, at the district registry of marriages at

\_\_\_\_\_.

Registrar

**Second Schedule (Section 38)****Fees**

|  | <b>National application<br/>(shs.)</b> | <b>Foreign application<br/>(US \$)</b> |
|--|--|--|
| Filing every notice and entering it                            | 10,000                                 | 10                                     |
| On issue of each certificate                                   | 25,000                                 | 25                                     |
| Certifying any extract   | 35,000                                 | 25                                     |
| On every marriage in the registrar's office                    | 200,000                                | 150                                    |
| On registration of the marriage                                | 25,000                                 | 25                                     |
| Licence to gazette wedding venue                               | 300,000                                | 200                                    |
| Licence to waive 21 days                                       | 300,000                                | 200                                    |
| Licence for place of worship to celebrate marriages            | 200,000                                | not applicable                         |
| Inspection or search of any marriage register, return or index | 25,000                                 | 20                                     |

*[Second Schedule substituted by section 2 of [Statutory Instrument 56 of 2005](#) and by section 3 of [Statutory Instrument 25 of 2014](#)]*