



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

**MARRIAGE
(AMENDMENT)
ACT NO. 5 OF 2021**

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REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

Assent: 20/07/2021
Commencement: 10/09/2021

MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 5 OF 2021

An Act to amend the Marriage Act [CAP 60].

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

1 Amendment

The Marriage Act [CAP 60] is amended as set out in the Schedule.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on the day on which it is published in the Gazette.

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS OF MARRIAGE ACT [CAP 60]

1 Whole of the Act

After “District Registrar”, insert “or Sub-Registrar”

2 Section 1

Repeal the section, substitute

“1. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears:

Central Register has the same meaning as in the Civil Status (Registration) Act [CAP 61];

District Registrar means a person appointed as a District Registrar under subsection 4(1) of the Civil Status (Registration) Act [CAP 61];

marriage means:

- (a) a civil marriage; or
- (b) a religious marriage; or
- (c) a custom marriage;

Minister means the Minister responsible for religious affairs;

minister means a person registered under section 3A;

Registrar-General has the same meaning as in the Civil Status (Registration) Act [CAP 61];

Sub-Registrar means a person appointed as a Sub-Registrar under subsection 4(3) of the Civil Status (Registration) Act [CAP 61].

1A. Persons before whom marriage may be celebrated

- (1) A marriage must be celebrated in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- (2) A marriage is valid if it is celebrated:
 - (a) before a District Registrar or a Sub-Registrar; or
 - (b) before a minister for celebrating marriages; or
 - (c) before a custom chief for a custom marriage.”

3 Section 4

After “District Registrar” (first occurring), insert “, Sub-Registrar”

4 Section 8

After “himself”, insert “or herself”

5 Section 12

- (a) After “District Registrar” (wherever occurring), insert “, Sub-Registrar”
- (b) Delete “before” (second occurring)

6 Section 13

After “his”, insert “or her”

7 Section 14

- (a) After “he”, insert “or she”
- (b) After “himself”, insert “or herself”

8 After section 21

Insert

“22. Amendment of Schedule

The Minister may, on the advice of the Registrar-General, by Order, add to, vary or replace a Schedule in this Act.

23. Regulation

- (1) The Minister may, on the advice of the Registrar-General, make Regulations:
 - (a) required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed; or
 - (b) necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Minister, on the advice of the Registrar-General, may make Regulations for all or any of the following:
 - (a) prescribe other formalities for the celebration of marriage;
 - (b) prescribe fees for the celebration of marriage.”