

## RESOLUTION NO 2

### NOTES

Recent legislation in both Northern Ireland and the Republic has relieved the Church of the responsibility for the civil registration of marriages. No longer does the church issue marriage licences or keep the civil registers. This has implications for the marriage service, particularly relating to the wording in the early part of the service and for much of the attached notes in the Book of Common Prayer. A further issue has arisen in the Civil Registration Act, 2004 in the Republic of Ireland which requires the couple to make a verbal declaration of no civil impediment before the Registered Solemniser and the two witnesses to the marriage either prior to the marriage or at the time of the service.

This bill seeks to amend the services to take account of these changes.

The wording of the statements by the minister to the congregation and the couple regarding lawful impediments in the existing services are no longer appropriate and the bill proposes to remove them and replace them with more applicable words and rubrics. All notes which deal with the calling of banns etc should now also be removed.

While it is possible in the Republic of Ireland to administer the declarations of no civil impediment up to 48 hours before the marriage provided it is in the presence of the Registered Solemniser and the two witnesses to the wedding, experience would suggest that the more normative place for the declarations to be made is at the time of the marriage itself and provision is made for this to happen.

In the service the form of words for the declaration of no civil impediment are not included because these may be subject to change with the agreement of the Registrar General. The existing wording provided by the Registrar is as follows:

*I hereby state that I have read and I understand the list of civil impediments to marriage and I solemnly declare that I believe there is no impediment of kindred or affinity or other legal hindrance to my proposed marriage to ....*

A Table of Kindred and Affinity has been provided by the state in both jurisdictions.

# MARRIAGE ONE

page 406

## The Form of Solemnization of Matrimony

### Introduction

*The priest says to the congregation*

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of this congregation, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony; which is an honourable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence, and first miracle that he wrought, in Cana of Galilee; and is commended in Holy Scripture to be honourable among all men: and therefore is not by any to be enterprised, nor taken in hand, unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God; duly considering the causes for which matrimony was ordained:

First, for the increase of mankind, according to the will of God, and for the due ordering of families and households, that children might be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of his holy Name;

Secondly, for the hallowing of the union betwixt man and woman, and for the avoidance of sin;

Thirdly, for the mutual society, help, and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

Into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined.

*The minister may say to the couple*

I require and charge you both, as ye will answer at the dreadful day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any impediment, why ye may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, ye do now confess it. For be ye well assured, that so many as are coupled together otherwise than God's Word doth allow are not joined together by God; neither is their matrimony lawful.

*[RI] Unless the declarations of no civil impediment have already been made by the couple prior to the marriage in the presence of the Registered Solemniser and the two witnesses the man and the woman each make the required declaration now.*

### The Marriage

## MARRIAGE TWO

page 419

### The Marriage

*The minister may say to the couple:*

God, the judge of all  
knows the secrets of our hearts;  
therefore if either of you knows any reason  
why you may not lawfully marry  
you must declare it now.

*[RI] Unless the declarations of no civil impediment have already been made by the couple prior to the marriage in the presence of the Registered Solemniser and the two witnesses the bride and bridegroom each make the required declaration now.*

### The Consent

*The minister says to the bridegroom*

... .. will you take ... .. to be your wife?  
Will you love her, comfort her,  
honour and care for her,  
and, forsaking all others,  
be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

*He answers*

**I will.**

*The minister says to the bride*

... .. will you take ... .. to be your husband?  
Will you love him, comfort him,  
honour and care for him,  
and, forsaking all others,  
be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

*She answers*

**I will.**

## RESOLUTION NO 2

### REV CANON RB ROUNTREE THE BISHOP OF CASHEL AND OSSORY

That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 26(1) of Chapter I of the Constitution, leave be given for the introduction of a Bill in the General Synod 2009 to amend *Marriage One* and *Marriage Two* in *The Book of Common Prayer* (2004), in the following terms:

#### MARRIAGE ONE

- On page 406 under "*The priest says to the congregation*" delete the last two lines "*Therefore if any man ...hold his peace* "
- On page 406 the rubric "*The minister says to the couple*" to read "*The minister may say to the couple*".
- On page 406 after "*neither is their matrimony lawful*" insert the following rubric:  
  
*"[RI] Unless the declarations of no civil impediment have already been made by the couple prior to the marriage in the presence of the Registered Solemniser and the two witnesses the man and the woman each make the required declaration now."*
- On page 415 delete "*On the day... costs incurred*"

#### MARRIAGE TWO

- On page 419 under the heading "THE MARRIAGE" delete the first two paragraphs "*The minister says to the congregation...you must declare it now*".
- On page 419 under the heading "THE MARRIAGE" substitute:

*"The minister may say to the couple:*

**God, the judge of all  
knows the secrets of our hearts;  
therefore if either of you knows any reason  
why you may not lawfully marry  
you must declare it now.**

*[RI] Unless the declarations of no civil impediment have already been made by the couple prior to the marriage in the presence of the Registered Solemniser and the two witnesses the bride and bridegroom each make the required declaration now."*

- On pages 429 and 430 delete "*On the day of the marriage..... Marriage Law in the Republic of Ireland*"