

GENERAL SYNOD 2009

BILL No 2 - To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod 2008 to amend Marriage One and Marriage Two in the *Book of Common Prayer* (2004)

Proposed by The Venerable R B Rountree, Archdeacon O Glendalough

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Archbishop,

Very shortly after the publication of the 2004 revision of the Book of Common Prayer new civil registration procedures were introduced in both jurisdictions in Ireland. These new regulations relieved the clergy of the Church of Ireland of the responsibility of the legal registration of marriages which take place in our churches. This is now carried out by the civil registrar dealing directly with the marriage couple.

This new procedure renders an amount of detail in Marriage One & Two obsolete and this bill amends the services to fit the new situation, by removing unnecessary material and making some minor amendments to text.

In the Republic there is an additional requirement by the state that a verbal affirmation of no civil impediment be made by the couple either in the service before the marriage vows or within 48 hours preceding the service. We would recommend that the declaration be normally made during the ceremony and so in a further amendment this year include the wording of a simpler declaration which has been agreed with the Registrar General during the year.

A further amendment to the schedule is tabled which underlines the necessity for the couple to produce a Marriage Registration Form (RI) or a Schedule of Marriage (NI) to the officiating priest before the marriage can take place.

I have much pleasure in proposing this bill and encourage the General Synod to accept the further amendments tabled in my name.