

Draft Church of England Marriage Measure 200..

CONTENTS

- 1 Marriages solemnized in churches, etc. in parishes with which a party has a qualifying connection
- 2 Marriage by common licence
- 3 Guidance
- 4 Supplementary Provisions
- 5 Citation, commencement and extent

Schedule – Amendments to Church Representation Rules

A DRAFT OF A MEASURE

To enable persons to be married in a place of worship **in a parish** with which they have a qualifying connection **and for connected purposes**.

- 1 Marriages solemnized in churches, etc. in parishes with which a party has a qualifying connection**
- (1) A person intending to be married shall have the like, but no greater, right to have the marriage solemnized in a parish church of a parish with which he or she has a connection specified in subsection (3) below (in this Measure referred to as a “qualifying connection”) as that person has to have the marriage solemnized in the parish church of the parish in which he or she resides or which is his or her usual place of worship.
- (2) Where a church or other building licensed for public worship has been designated, under section 29(2) of the Pastoral Measure 1983 (1983 No. 1), as a parish centre of worship, this section shall apply to such centre of worship, while the designation is in force, as it applies to a parish church. 5
- (3) For the purposes of this section a person has a qualifying connection with a parish in which the marriage is to be solemnized if—
- (a) that person **has been enrolled on the church electoral roll of that parish at any time after the date of the coming into force of this section and within the period of twelve years ending with the date on which the notice required under section 8 of the 1949 Act is delivered;** 10
- (b) that person was baptised **in that parish (unless the baptism took place in a combined rite which included baptism and confirmation) or presented for confirmation by a minister who at that time had the cure of souls in any part of that parish, such confirmation having been entered in the register book of confirmation for any church or chapel in that parish;** 15
- (c) that person has at any time **had his or her usual place of residence in that parish for a period of not less than twelve months;** 20
- (d) that person habitually attends, or has at any time habitually attended, public worship in that parish; or
- (e) **a parent of that person has during the lifetime of that person had his or her usual place of residence in that parish for a period of not less than twelve months or been enrolled on the church electoral roll of that parish at any time after the date of the coming into force of this** 25

- section and within the period of twelve years ending with the date on which the notice required under section 8 of the 1949 Act is delivered.
- (4) For the purpose of subsection (3)(e) above “parent” includes an adoptive parent and any other person who has undertaken the care and upbringing of the person seeking to establish a qualifying connection. 5
- (5) A person who has the right to have a marriage solemnized in accordance with subsection (1) above shall have the like right to have the banns of that marriage published in the parish church where the marriage is to be solemnised.
- (6) The right to have banns published conferred by subsection (5) above is additional to and not in substitution for the requirements of section 6 of the 1949 Act for banns to be published in the parish church of the parish where the parties to the marriage reside or of each parish in which one of them resides. 10
- (7) Where a marriage is intended to be solemnised in accordance with subsection (1) above following the publication of banns by virtue of subsection (5) above section 11(2) and (4) of the 1949 Act shall apply as those subsections apply to a marriage of which the banns have been published in a parish or district in which neither of the persons to be married resides by virtue of section 6(4) of that Act. 15
- (8) A person who wishes to have his or her marriage solemnized in accordance with subsection (1) above shall provide such information, written or otherwise, as the minister of the parish in which the marriage is to be solemnized may require in order to satisfy himself or herself that that person has a qualifying connection and— 20
- (a) section 8 of the 1949 Act shall apply as if the reference in that section to a clergyman were a reference to the minister, **and** 25
- (b) **the minister shall be under a duty, when considering whether any information provided to him or her is sufficient to satisfy himself or herself under this subsection that the person wishing to have the marriage solemnized has a qualifying connection, to have regard to any guidance issued under section 3 below.** 30
- (9) Where a public chapel is licensed by a bishop for the publication of banns and the solemnisation of marriages under section 20 of the 1949 Act, this section shall apply as if that chapel were a parish church of the parish or of any parish the whole or part of which is within the district specified in the licence. 35
- (10) In this section “church” does not include a cathedral.
- (11) In this section—
- (a) “Minister” (except in subsection (3)(b) above) means—
- (i) where a special cure of souls has been assigned to any priest for the area in which the church where the marriage is to be solemnised is situated, whether in a team ministry or otherwise, that priest, or 40
- (ii) where sub-paragraph (i) above does not apply, the incumbent of the benefice in the area of which that church is situated,
- (iii) where none of the above sub-paragraphs applies, the priest-in-charge of that benefice, or
- (iv) in the case of a team ministry, the vicar, if any, appointed by the bishop to act as rector under section 20(14) of the Pastoral Measure 1983 (1983 No.1) or, if there is no such vicar appointed, the vicar who has held office for the longest period in that ministry, or 45

- (v) **where none of the above sub-paragraphs applies**, the rural dean of the deanery in which that church is situated;
- (b) “parish” includes a conventional district; and
- (c) any reference to baptism, confirmation, marriage or public worship shall be construed as a reference to baptism, confirmation, marriage or public worship, as the case may be, according to the rites of the Church of England 5
- (12) **Where, as a result of a pastoral scheme or otherwise, a parish has ceased to exist or the boundaries thereof have been altered and a person who wishes to have his or her marriage solemnized in accordance with subsection (1) above can establish a qualifying connection by virtue of subsection (3)(b), (c) or (d) above or by virtue of the usual place of residence of his or her parent under subsection (3)(e) with a place situated within such a parish then, if that place is, at the time when the notice under section 8 of the 1949 Act is delivered, situated within the parish in which the church where the marriage is to be solemnized is situated, that person shall be deemed to have a qualifying connection with that parish.** 10 15
- (13) **In relation to the establishment of a qualifying connection under subsection (3)(b) above by virtue of being presented for confirmation the references in subsection (12) above to a place shall be construed as a reference to the church or other place of worship in whose register the confirmation was entered.** 20
- 2 Marriage by common licence** 25
- Notwithstanding section 15 of the 1949 Act a common licence may be granted to a person for the solemnization of a marriage in any church or chapel in which that person may be married under section 1 above and section 16(1)(b) of that Act shall, where a common licence may be granted by virtue of this section, have effect as if it required a person who has a qualifying connection with a parish within the meaning of section 1(3) above to swear that he or she has such a connection and section 1(8) above shall apply as if the reference therein to the minister of the parish were a reference to the authority having power to grant the licence. 30
- 3 Guidance** 35
- The House of Bishops shall from time to time issue guidance as to the exercise of any functions by a minister under section 1(8) above or by the authority having power to grant a common licence under that subsection as applied by section 2 above.**
- 4 Supplementary Provisions** 40
- (1) In this Measure “the 1949 Act” means the Marriage Act 1949 (12, 13 & 14 Geo 6 c 76) and, unless the context otherwise requires, expressions used in this Measure have the same meaning as in the 1949 Act.
- (2) **Where a marriage has been solemnized—**
- (a) **in accordance with section 1(1) above, or**
- (b) **on the authority of a common licence granted by virtue of section 2 above,** 45

it shall not be necessary in support of the marriage to give any proof that either party had a qualifying connection with the parish in which the marriage was solemnized and no evidence shall be given to prove the contrary in any proceedings touching the validity of the marriage.

- (3) **The Church Representation Rules contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 (1969 No.1) shall have effect subject to the amendments set out in the Schedule to this Measure.**

5 Citation, commencement and extent

- (1) This Measure may be cited as the Church of England Marriage Measure 200....
- (2) This Measure shall come into force on such day as the Archbishops of Canterbury and York may jointly appoint **and different days may be appointed for different provisions.**
- (3) This Measure shall extend to the whole of the provinces of Canterbury and York except the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, except that the provisions thereof may be extended to the Channel Islands as defined in the Channel Islands (Church Legislation) Measures 1931 and 1957 or either of them, in accordance with those Measures, and, if an Act of Tynwald or an instrument made under an Act of Tynwald so provides, shall extend to the Isle of Man subject to such exceptions, adaptations or modifications as may be specified in the Act of Tynwald or instrument.

SCHEDULE

Section 4(3)

AMENDMENTS TO CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES

- 1** The Church Representation Rules shall be amended as follows.
- 2** After rule 3 there shall be inserted the following rule –
 - “3A Maintenance and retention of record of Roll** 5
 - (1) It shall be the duty of the parochial church council for every parish or, if there is no parochial church council at any time, the minister and churchwardens (if any), to keep and maintain, or to direct the retention and maintenance of, a record of the contents of any roll which came or comes into effect in or after 2007 for a period of not less than twelve years after the roll, as revised, ceases to have effect under rule 2(7).** 10
 - (2) The record of the roll shall include details of any revision or other additions to or removals from the roll and of the dates of any such revisions, additions or removals.**
 - (3) The record shall be available for inspection by bona fide inquirers.** 15
 - (4) If a parish is dissolved by a pastoral scheme or otherwise it shall be the duty of the parochial council or, if there is no parochial church at that time, the minister and churchwardens (if any), to make such alterations to the record of the roll as may be required to bring it up to date before the date of the dissolution of the parish.”** 20
- 3** In rule 53(5) after the word “roll” there shall be inserted the words “or the record of a roll required to be kept and maintained under Rule 3A”.

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