



# Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014

2014 asp 5

## PART 1

### MARRIAGE

#### CHAPTER 1

##### SAME SEX MARRIAGE

## 1 Marriage of related persons

(1) The Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 (“the 1977 Act”) is amended as follows.

(2) In section 2 (marriage of related persons)—

(a) for subsection (1) substitute—

“(1) Subject to subsection (1A), a marriage between persons who are related to each other in a forbidden degree is void if solemnised—

(a) in Scotland; or

(b) at a time when either party is domiciled in Scotland.

(1ZA) For the purposes of subsection (1), a person is related to another person in a forbidden degree if related to that person in a degree specified in Schedule 1.”

(b) in subsection (1A), for the words from the beginning to “paragraph,” substitute “ A person who is related to another person in a degree specified in paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 (relationships by affinity) is not related to that person in a forbidden degree ”,

(c) after subsection (1A) insert—

“(1C) For the purposes of paragraph 2 of Schedule 1, “spouse” means—

(a) in the case of a marriage between persons of different sexes, a wife in relation to her husband or a husband in relation to his wife; and

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- (b) in the case of a marriage between persons of the same sex, one of the parties to the marriage in relation to the other.”,
  - (d) in subsection (7)—
    - (i) for “those provisions” substitute “ subsection (1C)(a) as it applies to paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 ”, and
    - (ii) the word “former” in each place where it appears is repealed, and
  - (e) in subsection (7A)—
    - (i) for “mother” substitute “ parent ”, and
    - (ii) the words “in either column” are repealed.
- (3) For schedule 1 substitute—

“SCHEDULE 1

(introduced by section 2)

DEGREES OF RELATIONSHIP

- (1) ***Relationships by consanguinity***
  - Parent
  - Child
  - Grandparent
  - Grandchild
  - Sibling
  - Aunt or uncle
  - Niece or nephew
  - Great-grandparent
  - Great-grandchild
- (2) ***Relationships by affinity referred to in section 2(1A)***
  - Child of former spouse
  - Child of former civil partner
  - Former spouse of parent
  - Former civil partner of parent
  - Former spouse of grandparent
  - Former civil partner of grandparent
  - Grandchild of former spouse
  - Grandchild of former civil partner
- (3) ***Relationships by adoption***
  - Adoptive parent or former adoptive parent
  - Adopted child or former adopted child.”.

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**Commencement Information**

**II** S. 1 in force at 16.12.2014 by [S.S.I. 2014/287](#), art. 3, [Sch.](#)

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## 2 Objections to marriage

In section 5(4) of the 1977 Act (objections to marriage)—

- (a) paragraph (e) is repealed, and
- (b) in paragraph (f), for “than one mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (e) above,” substitute “than—
  - (i) one mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d) above; or
  - (ii) the ground that the parties are of the same sex,”.

### Commencement Information

I2 S. 2 in force at 16.12.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch.

## 3 Preliminaries to marriage

- (1) The 1977 Act is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 3 (notice of intention to marry)—
  - (a) in subsection (1)—
    - (i) for paragraph (b) substitute—
      - “(b) if the person has previously been married and the marriage ended on the death of the other party to that marriage, the death certificate of that other party;”,
      - and
    - (ii) after that paragraph insert—
      - “(ba) if the person has previously been in a civil partnership which ended on the death of the other party to the civil partnership, the death certificate of that other party;”,
  - (b) in subsection (2), for “or (b)” substitute “, (b), (ba) or (bb)”, and
  - (c) in subsection (5), after paragraph (ii)(b) of the proviso insert “; or
    - (c) if no such certificate has been issued only by reason of the fact that the parties to the intended marriage are of the same sex.”.
- (3) In section 7(1) (marriage outside Scotland where a party resides in Scotland), after “(b)” insert “, (ba), (bb)”.

### Commencement Information

I3 S. 3 in force at 16.12.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch.

## 4 Meaning of marriage and related expressions in enactments and documents

- (1) References (however expressed) in any enactment to—
  - (a) marriage (including a marriage that has ended),
  - (b) a person who is (or was) married to another person, and
  - (c) two people who are (or were) married to each other,

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are references to marriage whether between persons of different sexes or persons of the same sex and to a party (or former party), or as the case may be the parties (or former parties), to such a marriage.

- (2) Subsection (3) applies to references (however expressed) in any enactment to two people who—
  - (a) are (or were) not married to each other, but
  - (b) are (or were) living together as if they were husband and wife.
- (3) The references include two people of the same sex who are (or were) not married to, nor in civil partnership with, each other but who are (or were) living together as if they were married to each other.
- (4) References (however expressed) in any enactment to two people of the same sex who are (or were) living together as if they were in a civil partnership cease to have effect.
- (5) Subsections (1) to (4)—
  - (a) apply to enactments (other than private Acts) passed or made before the commencement of this section, and
  - (b) do not apply in so far as the enactment, or any other enactment, provides otherwise.
- (6) In so far as being (or having been) married or in a purported marriage is relevant for the operation of any rule of law, the rule of law applies equally in relation to marriage or purported marriage to a person of a different sex and marriage or purported marriage to a person of the same sex.
- (7) Subsections (1) to (6) are subject to an order under subsection (8).
- (8) The Scottish Ministers may by order provide for any of subsections (1) to (6)—
  - (a) to have effect subject to provision made by the order, or
  - (b) not to apply in cases specified in the order.
- (9) An order under subsection (8)—
  - (a) may make different provision for different purposes,
  - (b) may include consequential, supplementary, incidental, transitional, transitory or saving provision,
  - (c) may modify any enactment (including this Act),
  - (d) is (except where subsection (10) applies) subject to the negative procedure.
- (10) An order under subsection (8) which adds to, replaces or omits any part of the text of an Act is subject to the affirmative procedure.
- (11) References (however expressed) in any document to—
  - (a) marriage (including a marriage that has ended),
  - (b) a person who is (or was) married to another person, and
  - (c) two people who are (or were) married to each other,
 are references to marriage whether between persons of different sexes or persons of the same sex and to a party (or former party), or as the case may be the parties (or former parties), to such a marriage.
- (12) The following expressions in any document have the meanings given—
  - (a) “widow” includes a woman whose marriage to another woman ended with the other woman's death,

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- (b) “widower” includes a man whose marriage to another man ended with the other man's death.
- (13) Subsections (11) and (12)—
- (a) apply to documents executed on or after the commencement of this section, and
- (b) do not apply in so far as the document provides otherwise.
- (14) In section 26(2) of the 1977 Act (interpretation), after the definition of “authorised registrar” insert—
- ““marriage” means marriage between persons of different sexes and marriage between persons of the same sex;”
- (15) In schedule 1 to the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (definitions of words and expressions), insert at the appropriate place in alphabetical order—
- ““marriage” means marriage between persons of different sexes and marriage between persons of the same sex (and any reference to a person being (or having been) married to another person, or to two people being (or having been) married to each other, is to be read accordingly),”
- ““widow” includes a woman whose marriage to another woman ended with the other woman's death,”
- ““widower” includes a man whose marriage to another man ended with the other man's death,”

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**Commencement Information**

**I4** S. 4(1)-(7)(11)-(15) in force at 16.12.2014 by [S.S.I. 2014/287](#), [art. 3](#), [Sch.](#)

**I5** S. 4(8)-(10) in force at 1.9.2014 by [S.S.I. 2014/212](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#)

## 5 Same sex marriage: further provision

- (1) For the avoidance of doubt, the rule of law which provides for a marriage to be voidable by reason of impotence has effect only in relation to a marriage between persons of different sexes.
- (2) In section 1 of the Divorce (Scotland) Act 1976 (grounds of divorce), after subsection (3) insert—
- “(3A) For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to marriage between persons of the same sex, adultery has the same meaning as it has in relation to marriage between persons of different sexes.”

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**Commencement Information**

**I6** S. 5 in force at 16.12.2014 by [S.S.I. 2014/287](#), [art. 3](#), [Sch.](#)

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## 6 Jurisdiction in proceedings relating to same sex marriages

Schedule 1, which makes provision about jurisdiction in proceedings relating to same sex marriages, has effect.

### Commencement Information

- I7** S. 6 in force at 1.9.2014 for specified purposes by S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, Sch.  
**I8** S. 6 in force at 16.12.2014 in so far as not already in force by S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch.

## 7 Reset: abolition of defence

- (1) Any rule of law under which a wife who receives or conceals goods stolen by her husband does not commit the offence of reset ceases to apply.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies only in relation to things done after the day on which this section comes into force.

### Commencement Information

- I9** S. 7 in force at 21.5.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/121, art. 2(a)

## CHAPTER 2

### MARRIAGE BETWEEN CIVIL PARTNERS IN QUALIFYING CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

## 8 Marriage between civil partners in qualifying civil partnerships

- (1) The 1977 Act is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 3 (notice of intention to marry), in subsection (1), after paragraph (ba) (inserted by section 3(2)(a)(ii) of this Act), insert—
  - “(bb) if the person is in a qualifying civil partnership within the meaning of section 5(6) with the other party to the intended marriage, an extract from the entry in the civil partnership register relating to the civil partnership;”.
- (3) In section 5 (objections to marriage)—
  - (a) in subsection (4)(b), after “partnership” insert “ other than a qualifying civil partnership with each other ”, and
  - (b) after subsection (5) insert—
    - “(6) For the purposes of subsection (4)(b) a “qualifying civil partnership” is a civil partnership which—
      - (a) was registered in Scotland; and
      - (b) has not been dissolved, annulled or ended by death.
- (7) A civil partnership which was registered outside the United Kingdom under an Order in Council made under Chapter 1 of Part 5 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 is to be treated for the purposes of subsection (6) (a) as having been registered in Scotland if—

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- (a) the parties to the civil partnership elected Scotland as the relevant part of the United Kingdom under the Order; and
- (b) details of the civil partnership have been sent to the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland.”.

#### Commencement Information

**I10** S. 8 in force at 16.12.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch.

### 9 Power to modify meaning of “qualifying civil partnership”

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by order modify the meaning of “qualifying civil partnership” given by section 5(6) of the 1977 Act (inserted by section 8(3)(b) of this Act) so as to include civil partnerships registered outside Scotland.
- (2) An order under subsection (1)—
  - (a) may make different provision for different purposes,
  - (b) may include consequential, supplementary, incidental, transitional, transitory or saving provision,
  - (c) may modify any enactment (including this Act),
  - (d) is subject to the affirmative procedure.
- (3) Before laying a draft of an order under subsection (1) before the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Ministers must consult the following persons on a copy of the proposed draft order—
  - (a) the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland, and
  - (b) such other persons as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.

#### Commencement Information

**I11** S. 9 in force at 1.9.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, Sch.

### 10 Change of qualifying civil partnership into marriage

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision to establish a procedure for the parties to a qualifying civil partnership to change their civil partnership into a marriage.
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) may in particular make provision—
  - (a) about the making by the parties to a qualifying civil partnership of an application to change their civil partnership into a marriage,
  - (b) about the information to be provided in support of an application,
  - (c) about the provision of evidence in support of an application,
  - (d) for persons who have made an application to appear before any person or appear at any place,
  - (e) conferring functions on persons in relation to applications,
  - (f) for fees, of such amounts as are specified in or determined in accordance with the regulations, to be payable in respect of—
    - (i) the making of an application,

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- (ii) the exercise of any function conferred by virtue of paragraph (e).
- (3) Functions conferred by virtue of subsection (2)(e) may include functions relating to—
  - (a) the recording of information relating to qualifying civil partnerships changing into marriages,
  - (b) the issuing of certified copies of any information recorded.
- (4) Before making regulations under subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers must consult the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (1)—
  - (a) may make different provision for different purposes,
  - (b) may include consequential, supplementary, incidental, transitional, transitory or saving provision,
  - (c) may modify any enactment (including this Act),
  - (d) are (except where subsection (6) applies) subject to the negative procedure.
- (6) Regulations under subsection (1) which add to, replace or omit any part of the text of an Act are subject to the affirmative procedure.
- (7) In this section “qualifying civil partnership” has the meaning given by <sup>F1</sup>section 5(6)(a)(i)(A) of the 1977 Act].

#### Textual Amendments

**F1** Words in s. 10(7) substituted (31.10.2015) by [The Qualifying Civil Partnership Modification \(Scotland\) Order 2015 \(S.S.I. 2015/371\)](#), arts. 1, 5

#### Commencement Information

**I12** S. 10 in force at 1.9.2014 by [S.S.I. 2014/212](#), art. 2, [Sch.](#)

## 11 Effect of marriage between civil partners in a qualifying civil partnership

- (1) This section applies where civil partners in a qualifying civil partnership (within the meaning of section 5(6) of the 1977 Act)—
  - (a) marry in accordance with that Act, or
  - (b) change their civil partnership into a marriage in accordance with provision made under section 10(1).
- (2) Where this section applies—
  - (a) the qualifying civil partnership ends on the date on which—
    - (i) the marriage was solemnised, or
    - (ii) the change took effect, and
  - (b) the civil partners are to be treated as having been married to each other since the date on which the qualifying civil partnership was registered.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b)—
  - (a) a civil partnership registered under an Order in Council made under section 210 of the 2004 Act is to be treated as having been registered when it is entered in the Register Book maintained under the Order,



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- (b) a civil partnership registered under an Order in Council made under section 211 of the 2004 Act is to be treated as having been registered when the civil partnership register is signed in accordance with the Order.
- (4) Subsection (2)(b) is subject to—
- (a) any provision to the contrary made by or under any enactment,
  - (b) an order under subsection (5).
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may by order provide for subsection (2)(b)—
- (a) to have effect subject to provision made by the order, or
  - (b) not to apply in cases specified in the order.
- (6) An order under subsection (5)—
- (a) may include consequential, supplementary, incidental, transitional, transitory or saving provision,
  - (b) is subject to the negative procedure.
- (7) If a decree of aliment under section 3 of the Family Law (Scotland) Act 1985 (powers of court in action for aliment) requiring one of the civil partners to make payments to the other is in force at the time the qualifying civil partnership ends by virtue of subsection (2)(a) of this section, the decree continues to have effect despite the ending of the civil partnership.
- (8) If an order under section 103(3) or (4) of the 2004 Act (regulation by court of rights of occupancy of family home) is in force at the time the qualifying civil partnership ends by virtue of subsection (2)(a) of this section the order has effect from that time as if made under section 3(3) or, as the case may be, 3(4) of the Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) Act 1981 (regulation by court of rights of occupancy of matrimonial home).
- (9) In section 1 of the 2004 Act (provision for civil partnership), after subsection (3) insert—
- “(3A) Subsection (3) is subject to section 11(2)(a) of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (ending of certain civil partnerships on marriage under Scots law).”.

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** S. 11 applied (16.12.2014) by [The Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Scotland\) Act 2014 and Civil Partnership Act 2004 \(Consequential Provisions and Modifications\) Order 2014 \(S.I. 2014/3229\)](#), arts. 1(2), **14**
- C2** S. 11(2)(b) modified (31.10.2015) by [The Qualifying Civil Partnership Modification \(Scotland\) Order 2015 \(S.S.I. 2015/371\)](#), arts. 1, **6**
- C3** S. 11(2)(b): power to modify conferred (1.6.2021) by [Civil Partnership \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 15\)](#), **ss. 4(2)(e), 16**; [S.S.I. 2021/23](#), reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

#### **Commencement Information**

- I13** S. 11(1)-(4)(7)-(9) in force at 16.12.2014 by [S.S.I. 2014/287](#), art. 3, **Sch.**
- I14** S. 11(5)(6) in force at 1.9.2014 by [S.S.I. 2014/212](#), art. 2, **Sch.**

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## CHAPTER 3

### SOLEMNISATION OF MARRIAGE

#### 12 Persons who may solemnise marriage

- (1) The 1977 Act is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 8 (persons who may solemnise marriage)—
- (a) in subsection (1)—
- (i) after “marriage” in the first place where it appears insert “ between persons of different sexes ”,
- (ii) in paragraph (a)(ii)—
- (A) for “or priest of a religious body” substitute “ priest or other celebrant of a religious or belief body ”,
- (B) for “religious body” in the second place it appears substitute “ religious or belief body ”, and
- (C) for “marriages” substitute “ marriage between persons of different sexes ”,
- (iii) in paragraph (a)(iii), after “Act” insert “ to solemnise marriage between persons of different sexes ”, and
- (iv) in paragraph (a)(iv), after “Act” insert “ to solemnise marriage between persons of different sexes ”,
- (b) after subsection (1) insert—
- “(1A) The Scottish Ministers may prescribe a religious or belief body under subsection (1)(a)(ii) only if—
- (a) the body requests them to do so; and
- (b) the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that the body meets the qualifying requirements.
- (1B) Subject to section 23A, a marriage between persons of the same sex may be solemnised by and only by—
- (a) a person who is—
- (i) a minister, clergyman, pastor, priest or other celebrant of a religious or belief body prescribed by regulations made by the Scottish Ministers, or who, not being one of the foregoing, is recognised by a religious or belief body so prescribed as entitled to solemnise marriage between persons of the same sex on its behalf;
- (ii) registered under section 9 to solemnise marriage between persons of the same sex; or
- (iii) temporarily authorised under section 12 to solemnise marriage between persons of the same sex; or
- (b) a person who is a district registrar or assistant registrar appointed under section 17.
- (1C) The Scottish Ministers may prescribe a religious or belief body under subsection (1B)(a)(i) only if—
- (a) the body requests them to do so; and

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- (b) the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that the body meets the qualifying requirements.
- (1D) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in subsection (1B)(a) or (1C)(a)
- (a) imposes a duty on any religious or belief body to make a request referred to in subsection (1C)(a);
  - (b) imposes a duty on any such body to nominate under section 9 any of its members to be registered as empowered to solemnise marriages between persons of the same sex;
  - (c) imposes a duty on any person to apply for temporary authorisation under section 12 to solemnise marriages between persons of the same sex;
  - (d) imposes a duty on any person who is an approved celebrant in relation to marriages between persons of the same sex to solemnise such marriages.
- (1E) In subsections (1A)(b) and (1C)(b), the “qualifying requirements” are such requirements as may be set out in regulations made by the Scottish Ministers.
- (1F) Regulations under subsection (1E)—
- (a) may make different provision for different cases or circumstances;
  - (b) may include transitional and saving provision.
- (1G) Regulations under subsection (1)(a)(ii), (1B)(a)(i) or (1E) are subject to the negative procedure.”, and
- (c) in subsection (2)—
- (i) in paragraph (a)—
    - (A) after “(1)(a)” insert “ or (1B)(a) ”, and
    - (B) for “ “religious marriage” ” substitute “ “religious or belief marriage” ”, and
  - (ii) in paragraph (b), after “(1)(b)” insert “ or (1B)(b) ”.
- (3) In section 14 (form of ceremony to be used by approved celebrant)—
- (a) in paragraph (a), after “or (ii)” insert “ or (1B)(a)(i) ”, and
  - (b) in paragraph (b), after “or (iv)” insert “ or (1B)(a)(ii) or (iii) ”.
- (4) In section 26(2) (interpretation)—
- (a) for the definition of “religious body” substitute—
    - ““religious or belief body” means an organised group of people—
    - (a) which meets regularly for religious worship; or
    - (b) the principal object (or one of the principal objects) of which is to uphold or promote philosophical beliefs and which meets regularly for that purpose;”, and
  - (b) after that definition insert—
    - ““religious or belief marriage” has the meaning given by section 8(2)(a);”.

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### Commencement Information

- I15** S. 12(1)(2)(a)(2)(b) in force at 1.9.2014 for specified purposes by S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, **Sch.** (with art. 3)
- I16** S. 12(1)(2)(b) in force at 16.12.2014 for specified purposes by S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, **Sch.** (with art. 4)
- I17** S. 12(2)(a) in force at 16.12.2014 in so far as not already in force by S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, **Sch.** (with art. 4)
- I18** S. 12(2)(c)(3)(4) in force at 16.12.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, **Sch.** (with art. 4)

## 13 Registration of nominated persons as celebrants

- (1) The 1977 Act is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 9 (registration of nominated persons as celebrants)—
- (a) in subsection (1)—
- (i) for “religious body” substitute “ religious or belief body ”, and
- (ii) after “marriages” insert “ between persons of different sexes ”,
- (b) after subsection (1) insert—
- “(1A) A religious or belief body, not being prescribed by virtue of section 8(1B)(a)(i), may nominate to the Registrar General any of its members who it desires should be registered under this section as empowered to solemnise marriages between persons of the same sex.”,
- (c) in subsection (2)—
- (i) after “(1)” insert “ or (1A) ”,
- (ii) in paragraph (a), for “religious body” substitute “ religious or belief body ”, and
- (iii) in paragraph (d)—
- (A) the word “religious” is repealed, and
- (B) after “that body” insert “ in relation to solemnising marriages between persons of different sexes or, as the case may be, marriages between persons of the same sex ”,
- (d) after paragraph (d) insert “; or
- (e) the nominating body does not meet the qualifying requirements.”,
- (e) after subsection (2) insert—
- “(2A) In subsection (2)(e), the “qualifying requirements” are such requirements as may be set out in regulations made by the Scottish Ministers.
- (2B) Regulations under subsection (2A)—
- (a) may make different provision for different cases or circumstances;
- (b) may include transitional and saving provision.
- (2C) Regulations under subsection (2A) are subject to the negative procedure.”,
- (f) in subsection (3)—

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- (i) after “ceremony” insert “ for marriage between persons of different sexes ”,
  - (ii) in paragraph (a), for the words from “witnesses,” to “wife;” substitute “witnesses—
    - (i) that they accept each other as husband and wife;
    - (ii) that they accept each other in marriage; or
    - (iii) either or both of sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii);”,
  - (iii) in paragraph (b), for the words from “subsection,” to “wife,” substitute “subsection—
    - (i) that the parties are then husband and wife;
    - (ii) that the parties are then married; or
    - (iii) either or both of sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii);”,  
and
  - (iv) after “ceremonies” insert “ for marriage between persons of different sexes ”,
  - (g) after subsection (3) insert—

“(3A) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b) above, a marriage ceremony for marriage between persons of the same sex is of an appropriate form if it includes, and is in no way inconsistent with—

    - (a) a declaration by the parties, in the presence of each other, the celebrant and two witnesses, that they accept each other in marriage;
    - (b) a declaration by the celebrant, after the declaration mentioned in paragraph (a), that the parties are then married,

and the Registrar General may, before deciding whether to accept or reject a nomination, require the nominating body to produce in writing the form of words used at its marriage ceremonies for marriage between persons of the same sex.”,
  - (h) in subsection (4)—
    - (i) after “(1)” insert “ or (1A) ”, and
    - (ii) in paragraph (b), after “area” insert “ or place ”,
  - (i) in subsection (5)(a), after “(1)” insert “ or (1A) ”,
  - (j) after subsection (5) insert—

“(5ZA) The register mentioned in subsection (5)(a)(ii) is to be in two parts—

    - (a) the first part containing the details mentioned in subsection (5)(a)(ii) in relation to persons nominated by religious or belief bodies to solemnise marriages between persons of different sexes; and
    - (b) the second part containing those details in relation to persons nominated by religious or belief bodies to solemnise marriages between persons of the same sex.”,
  - (k) in subsection (6), in the proviso, for “religious body” in each place where it appears substitute “ religious or belief body ”, and
  - (l) the italic cross-heading preceding section 9 becomes “ *Religious or belief marriages* ”.
- (3) In section 10 (removal of celebrant's name from register)—

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- (a) in subsection (1)—
    - (i) in paragraph (b), after “9(1)” insert “ or (1A) ”, and
    - (ii) in paragraph (c), after “9(3)” insert “ or (3A) ”,
  - (b) after that subsection insert—
    - “(1A) In relation to any ground mentioned in subsection (1)(a) to (c), references in this section to removal from and restoration to the register include removal from and restoration to the appropriate part of the register.”, and
  - (c) in subsection (4), after “9(1)” insert “ or (1A) ”.
- (4) In section 14(b) (form of ceremony to be used by approved celebrant), after “9(3)” insert “ or (3A) ”.
- (5) In section 24(2)(a) (offences), after “area” insert “ or place ”.

#### Commencement Information

- I19** S. 13(1)(2)(e) in force at 1.9.2014 for specified purposes by [S.S.I. 2014/212](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#)
- I20** S. 13(1) in force at 16.12.2014 for specified purposes by [S.S.I. 2014/287](#), [art. 3](#), [Sch.](#)
- I21** S. 13(2)(a)-(c)(f)-(l)(3)-(5) in force at 16.12.2014 by [S.S.I. 2014/287](#), [art. 3](#), [Sch.](#)

## 14 Temporary authorisation of celebrants

- (1) The 1977 Act is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 12 (temporary authorisation of celebrants)—
- (a) in subsection (1), for “person” substitute “ member of a religious or belief body ”, and
  - (b) after subsection (1) insert—
    - “(1A) The Registrar General may grant an authorisation to a person under subsection (1) only if satisfied that the religious or belief body of which the person is a member meets the qualifying requirements.
    - (1B) An authorisation under subsection (1)(b) may be granted in relation to—
      - (a) only marriages between persons of different sexes;
      - (b) only marriages between persons of the same sex; or
      - (c) both.
    - (1C) The Registrar General may grant an authorisation to a person under subsection (1)(b) to solemnise marriages between persons of the same sex only if the religious or belief body of which the person is a member—
      - (a) is prescribed by virtue of section 8(1B)(a)(i); or
      - (b) has nominated members (whether or not including that person) under section 9(1A) to solemnise marriages between persons of the same sex.

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- (1D) In subsection (1A), the “qualifying requirements” are such requirements as may be set out in regulations made by the Scottish Ministers.
- (1E) Regulations under subsection (1D)—
- (a) may make different provision for different cases or circumstances;
  - (b) may include transitional and saving provision.
- (1F) Regulations under subsection (1D) are subject to the negative procedure.”.
- (3) In section 24 (offences), in subsection (2)(c), for the words from “12(a)” to the end substitute “12 of this Act—
- (i) if authorised under subsection (1)(a) of that section, solemnises a marriage not specified in the authorisation;
  - (ii) if authorised under subsection (1)(b) of that section, solemnises a marriage outwith the period specified in the authorisation;
  - (iii) in either case, solemnises a marriage otherwise than in accordance with such terms and conditions as may be specified in the authorisation;”.

#### Commencement Information

- I22** S. 14(1)(2) in force at 1.9.2014 for specified purposes by S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, Sch.  
**I23** S. 14(1)(2)(b) in force at 16.12.2014 for specified purposes by S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch.  
**I24** S. 14(2)(a)(3) in force at 16.12.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch.

## 15 Religious or belief marriage: further provision

- (1) The 1977 Act is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 6(5) (solemnisation of marriage on date and at place in Marriage Schedule), for “religious marriage” substitute “ religious or belief marriage ”.
- (3) In section 11 (alterations to register), in paragraph (a), for “religious body” substitute “ religious or belief body ”.
- (4) In the title of section 13 (preliminaries to solemnisation of religious marriages), for “**religious marriages**” substitute “ **marriages by approved celebrants** ”.
- (5) In section 14(a) (form of ceremony to be used by approved celebrant), for “religious body” substitute “ religious or belief body ”.
- (6) In the title of section 15 (registration of religious marriages), for “**religious marriages**” substitute “ **religious or belief marriages** ”.
- (7) In section 15(3) (entry in register of marriage on receipt of Marriage Schedule), for “religious marriage” substitute “ religious or belief marriage ”.

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**Commencement Information**

**I25** S. 15 in force at 16.12.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch.

## CHAPTER 4

### SAME SEX MARRIAGE: PROTECTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ETC.

**16 Same sex marriage: protection of freedom of expression etc.**

- (1) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Part so far as it makes provision for the marriage of persons of the same sex and as to the persons who may solemnise such marriages affects the exercise of—
- (a) the Convention right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,
  - (b) the Convention right to freedom of expression, or
  - (c) any equivalent right conferred by rule of law.
- (2) “Convention right” has the same meaning as in the Human Rights Act 1998.

**Commencement Information**

**I26** S. 16 in force at 16.12.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch.

## CHAPTER 5

### OTHER CHANGES TO MARRIAGE PROCEDURE

**17 Power of district registrar to require evidence of nationality: marriage**

- (1) The 1977 Act is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 3 (notice of intention to marry), after subsection (4) insert—
- “(4A) A district registrar to whom a notice under subsection (1) is submitted may require the person submitting the notice to provide the district registrar with specified nationality evidence relating to each of the parties to the marriage.
- (4B) A requirement under subsection (4A) may be imposed at any time—
- (a) on or after the submitting of the notice under subsection (1); but
  - (b) before the district registrar completes the Marriage Schedule.
- (4C) In subsection (4A), “specified nationality evidence” means such evidence of that person's nationality as may be specified in guidance issued by the Registrar General.”.
- (3) In section 7 (marriage outside Scotland where a party resides in Scotland), in subsection (1) for “and (3)” substitute “, (3) and (4A) to (4C) ”.



*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014. (See end of Document for details)*

**Commencement Information**

**I27** S. 17 in force at 1.9.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, Sch.

**18 The Marriage Schedule**

- (1) The 1977 Act is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 6 (the Marriage Schedule)—
  - (a) after subsection (1) insert—

“(1A) Regulations under subsection (1) prescribing the form of the Marriage Schedule may make different provision for different cases or circumstances.”, and
  - (b) in subsection (4)(a), for “14 days” in both places where those words appear substitute “ 28 days ”.
- (3) In section 7(2) (issuing of certificate in respect of legal capacity to marry), for “14 days” substitute “ 28 days ”.
- (4) In section 19(1) (period between receipt of marriage notice and solemnisation of marriage), for “14 days” substitute “ 28 days ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I28** S. 18(1)(2)(b)(3)(4) in force at 1.3.2015 by S.S.I. 2015/14, art. 2, Sch. (with art. 3(1)(3))

**I29** S. 18(2)(a) in force at 1.9.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, Sch.

**19 Marriage outside Scotland: evidence of dissolution of former civil partnership**

In section 7(1) of the 1977 Act (marriage outside Scotland where a party resides in Scotland), after “3(1)(a),” insert “ (aa), ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I30** S. 19 in force at 21.5.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/121, art. 2(b)

**20 Religious marriages: solemnisation by Church of Scotland deacons**

In section 8(1)(a)(i) of the 1977 Act (solemnisation of marriage by ministers of the Church of Scotland), after “minister” insert “ or deacon ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I31** S. 20 in force at 21.5.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/121, art. 2(c)

**21 Places at which civil marriages may be solemnised**

- (1) The 1977 Act is amended as follows.

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- (2) In section 18 (places at which civil marriages may be solemnised)—
- (a) in subsection (1)—
- (i) after paragraph (a) insert—
- “(aa) at an appropriate place in the registration district of the authorised registrar; or
- (ab) with the approval of the Registrar General, at—
- (i) the registration office of another authorised registrar;
- (ii) an appropriate place in the registration district of another authorised registrar; or
- (iii) an appropriate place in Scottish waters.”,
- (ii) paragraph (b) (and the word “or” following it) are repealed, and
- (iii) paragraph (c) is repealed,
- (b) after that subsection insert—
- “(1A) In this section—
- “appropriate place” means a place which—
- (a) the parties to the intended marriage and the local registration authority agree is to be the place of solemnisation; and
- (b) is not religious premises;
- “local registration authority” means—
- (a) the local registration authority for the registration district which includes the place; or
- (b) where the place is in Scottish waters, the local registration authority for the authorised registrar’s registration district;
- “religious premises” means premises which—
- (a) are used solely or mainly for religious purposes; or
- (b) have been so used and have not subsequently been used solely or mainly for other purposes.”, and
- (c) subsections (2) to (8) are repealed.
- (3) Section 18A (approved places) is repealed.
- (4) In section 19 (marriage ceremony and registration of marriage)—
- (a) in subsection (4)(a)—
- (i) for sub-paragraph (ii) substitute—
- “(ii) at an appropriate place (within the meaning given by section 18) in the registration district of the authorised registrar; or”,
- (ii) sub-paragraph (iii) (and the word “or” following it) are repealed, and
- (iii) in sub-paragraph (iv), for the words “in or on an approved vessel” substitute “ at an appropriate place (within the meaning given by section 18) ”,
- (b) in subsection (4)(b)(ii), for “approved place” substitute “ appropriate place (within the meaning given by section 18) ”, and
- (c) subsection (5) is repealed.

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- (5) In section 26(2A)(b) (seaward boundary of registration district), for “within a registration district if it” substitute “a place within a registration district if the vessel”.

**Commencement Information**

**I32** S. 21 in force at 1.9.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, Sch.

**22 Second marriage ceremony: form of endorsement**

In section 20(2)(d) of the 1977 Act (second marriage ceremony), in the form of the endorsement, the word “19” in both places where it appears is repealed.

**Commencement Information**

**I33** S. 22 in force at 21.5.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/121, art. 2(d)

**CHAPTER 6**

**SHERIFF COURT JURISDICTION IN RELATION TO DECLARATOR OF MARRIAGE**

**23 Sheriff court jurisdiction in relation to declarator of marriage**

(1) Section 8 of the Domicile and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1973 (jurisdiction of the sheriff court in relation to actions for separation, divorce etc.) is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), before paragraph (a) insert—  
“(za) an action for declarator of marriage;”.

(3) After subsection (2) insert—

“(2ZA) The court has jurisdiction to entertain an action for declarator of marriage if (and only if)—

- (a) either party to the marriage—
- (i) was resident in the sheriffdom for a period of 40 days ending with the date on which the action is begun, or
  - (ii) had been resident in the sheriffdom for a period of not less than 40 days ending not more than 40 days before that date, and has no known residence in Scotland on that date, and
- (b) any of the following requirements is met in relation to either of the parties to the marriage—
- (i) the party is domiciled in Scotland on the date on which the action is begun,
  - (ii) the party was habitually resident in Scotland throughout the period of one year ending with that date, or
  - (iii) the party died before that date and either—
    - (A) was at death domiciled in Scotland, or
    - (B) had been habitually resident in Scotland throughout the period of one year ending with the date of death.”.

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- (4) In subsection (3)—
- (a) after “declarator of” insert “ marriage or of”, and
  - (b) after “subsection (2)” in both places where those words appear insert “ , (2ZA) ”.
- (5) In subsection (4), after “declarator of” insert “ marriage or of”.

**Commencement Information**

**I34** S. 23 in force at 21.5.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/121, art. 2(e)

**PART 2**

**CIVIL PARTNERSHIP**

**24 Registration of civil partnership**

- (1) The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (“the 2004 Act”) is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 85 (formation of civil partnership by registration)—
- (a) in subsection (1), for paragraph (c) and the words following it substitute—
    - “(c) the approved celebrant or, as the case may be, the authorised registrar.”, and
  - (b) in subsection (4)(b), at the beginning insert “ the approved celebrant or, as the case may be, ”.
- (3) In section 86 (eligibility)—
- (a) for subsection (2) substitute—
    - “(2) Subject to subsection (3), a person is related to another person in a forbidden degree if related to that person in a degree specified in Schedule 10.”,
  - (b) in subsection (3), for the words from the beginning to “related” in the third place where it appears substitute “ A person who is related to another person in a degree specified in paragraph 2 of Schedule 10 (relationships by affinity) is not related to that person ”,
  - (c) after subsection (3) insert—
    - “(3A) For the purposes of paragraph 2 of Schedule 10, “spouse” means—
      - (a) in the case of a marriage between persons of different sexes, a wife in relation to her husband or a husband in relation to his wife, and
      - (b) in the case of a marriage between persons of the same sex, one of the parties to the marriage in relation to the other.”,
  - (d) in subsection (5)—
    - (i) after “in” insert “ subsection (3A)(a) as it applies to ”, and
    - (ii) the word “former” in each place where it appears is repealed, and
  - (e) in subsection (5A)—
    - (i) for “mother” substitute “ parent ”, and

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- (ii) the words “in either column” are repealed.
- (4) In section 87 (appointment of authorised registrars), before “registration” in the first place where it appears insert “civil”.
- (5) In section 88 (notice of proposed civil partnership), after subsection (6) insert—
- “(7) In this section, “the district registrar” means—
- (a) where the civil partnership is to be registered in a registration district, the district registrar for that district,
  - (b) where the civil partnership is to be registered in Scottish waters—
    - (i) in the case where the civil partnership is to be registered by an approved celebrant, the district registrar for any registration district,
    - (ii) in the case where the civil partnership is to be registered by an authorised registrar, the district registrar for the registration district of the proposed authorised registrar.”
- (6) In section 89 (civil partnership notice book), after subsection (2) insert—
- “(3) In this section and sections 90, 91, 92 and 94, “the district registrar” means—
- (a) where the civil partnership is to be registered in a registration district, the district registrar for that district,
  - (b) where the civil partnership is to be registered in Scottish waters—
    - (i) in the case where the civil partnership is to be registered by an approved celebrant, the district registrar to whom the civil partnership notices were submitted,
    - (ii) in the case where the civil partnership is to be registered by an authorised registrar, the district registrar for the registration district of the proposed authorised registrar.”
- (7) In section 90 (publicisation)—
- (a) in subsection (1), for “a district registrar” substitute “the district registrar”,
  - (b) in subsection (2)(b), for “14 days” substitute “28 days”, and
  - (c) in subsection (3), for “91” substitute “91(1)”.
- (8) In section 91 (early registration)—
- (a) the existing text becomes subsection (1),
  - (b) in that subsection—
    - (i) for “An authorised registrar who” substitute “Where the district registrar”,
    - (ii) for “14 days” substitute “28 days”, and
    - (iii) after “section 90” insert “the district registrar”, and
  - (c) after that subsection insert—
 

“(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a request which is made by electronic means is to be treated as in writing if it is received in a form which is legible and capable of being used for subsequent reference.”
- (9) In section 92 (objections to registration)—
- (a) in subsection (3), for “at which a notice of proposed civil partnership to which the objection would relate” substitute “of the district registrar”,

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- (b) in subsection (4)(b)—
  - (i) the word “and” following sub-paragraph (i) is repealed, and
  - (ii) after sub-paragraph (ii) insert “, and
  - (iii) where, in the case of a civil partnership to be registered by an approved celebrant, the civil partnership schedule has already been issued to the parties, if possible notify that celebrant of the objection and advise the celebrant not to register the civil partnership pending consideration of the objection.”, and
- (c) in subsection (5)(a), for the words “not to register the intended civil partners and to notify them” substitute “ to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the registration of the civil partnership does not take place and must notify, or direct the district registrar to notify, the intended civil partners ”.

(10) In section 93 (place of registration)—

- (a) in subsection (1)—
  - (i) after “registered” insert “ by an authorised registrar ”, and
  - (ii) for the words from “other” in the first place where it appears to the end substitute “other—
    - (a) at the registration office of the authorised registrar,
    - (b) at an appropriate place in the registration district of the authorised registrar, or
    - (c) with the approval of the Registrar General, at—
      - (i) the registration office of another authorised registrar,
      - (ii) an appropriate place in the registration district of another authorised registrar, or
      - (iii) an appropriate place in Scottish waters.”,
- (b) after that subsection, insert—
  - “(1A) In this section—
    - “appropriate place” means a place which—
      - (a) the parties to the intended civil partnership and the local registration authority agree is to be the place of registration, and
      - (b) is not religious premises,
    - “local registration authority” means—
      - (a) the local registration authority for the registration district which includes the place, or
      - (b) where the place is in Scottish waters, the local registration authority for the authorised registrar’s registration district,
    - “religious premises” means premises which—
      - (a) are used solely or mainly for religious purposes, or
      - (b) have been so used and have not subsequently been used solely or mainly for other purposes.”,
- (c) subsections (2) and (3) are repealed, and

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- (d) the title of section 93 becomes “ **Place of civil registration of civil partnerships** ”.

(11) After section 93 insert—

**“93A Date and place of registration of religious or belief civil partnerships**

- (1) A religious or belief civil partnership may be registered only on the date and at the place specified in the civil partnership schedule.
- (2) But if, for any reason, the civil partnership cannot be registered on that date or at that place and a new date or place is fixed for the registration, the district registrar must—
- (a) issue another civil partnership schedule under section 94(2) in place of that already issued, specifying the new date or place, or
  - (b) substitute, or direct the approved celebrant to substitute, the new date or place in the civil partnership schedule already issued.
- (3) Subsection (2) does not apply where—
- (a) the new date is more than 3 months after the date for the registration specified in the civil partnership schedule already issued, or
  - (b) the new place is in a different registration district, is in Scottish waters instead of a registration district or is in a registration district instead of Scottish waters.
- (4) In a case falling within subsection (3)(a) or (b) the Registrar General may, according to the circumstances—
- (a) direct the district registrar—
    - (i) to issue another civil partnership schedule under section 94(2) in place of that already issued, specifying the new date or place, or
    - (ii) to substitute, or direct the approved celebrant to substitute, the new date or place in the civil partnership schedule already issued,
 (whichever the Registrar General considers the more appropriate), or
  - (b) direct each party to the civil partnership to submit to the district registrar a new notice of proposed civil partnership.”.

(12) In section 94 (the civil partnership schedule)—

- (a) the existing text becomes subsection (1),
- (b) in paragraph (b) of that subsection—
  - (i) for “14 days” substitute “ 28 days ”, and
  - (ii) for “91” substitute “ 91(1) ”, and
- (c) after that subsection insert—

“(2) In the case of a civil partnership to be registered by an approved celebrant, the civil partnership schedule completed in accordance with subsection (1) is to be issued by the district registrar to one or both of the parties to the intended civil partnership.

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- (3) The district registrar may not issue the civil partnership schedule on a date earlier than 7 days before the date of the intended civil partnership unless authorised to do so by the Registrar General.”.

(13) After section 94 insert—

**“94A Persons who may register civil partnerships**

- (1) A civil partnership may be registered by and only by—
- (a) a person who is—
    - (i) a celebrant of a religious or belief body prescribed by regulations made by the Scottish Ministers, or who, not being a celebrant, is recognised by a religious or belief body so prescribed as entitled to register civil partnerships on its behalf,
    - (ii) registered under section 94B, or
    - (iii) temporarily authorised under section 94E, or
  - (b) a person who is a district registrar or assistant registrar appointed under section 87.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers may prescribe a religious or belief body under subsection (1)(a)(i) only if—
- (a) the body requests them to do so, and
  - (b) the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that the body meets the qualifying requirements.
- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in subsection (1)(a) or (2)(a)—
- (a) imposes a duty on any religious or belief body to make a request referred to in subsection (2)(a),
  - (b) imposes a duty on any such body to nominate under section 94B any of its members to be registered as empowered to register civil partnerships,
  - (c) imposes a duty on any person to apply for temporary authorisation under section 94E to register civil partnerships,
  - (d) imposes a duty on any person who is an approved celebrant in relation to civil partnerships to register civil partnerships.
- (4) In this Part—
- (a) any such person as is mentioned in subsection (1)(a) is referred to as an “approved celebrant”,
  - (b) a civil partnership registered by an approved celebrant is referred to as a “religious or belief civil partnership”,
  - (c) a civil partnership registered by an authorised registrar is referred to as a “civil registration”.
- (5) In subsection (2)(b), the “qualifying requirements” are such requirements as may be set out in regulations made by the Scottish Ministers.



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### **94B Registration of nominated persons as celebrants**

- (1) A religious or belief body, not being prescribed by virtue of section 94A(1)(a)(i), may nominate to the Registrar General any of its members who it desires should be registered under this section as empowered to register civil partnerships.
- (2) The Registrar General must reject a nomination under subsection (1) if in the Registrar General's opinion—
  - (a) the nominating body is not a religious or belief body,
  - (b) the nominee is not a fit and proper person to register a civil partnership,
  - (c) there are already registered under this section sufficient members of the same body as the nominee to meet the needs of that body, or
  - (d) the nominating body does not meet the qualifying requirements.
- (3) In subsection (2)(d), the “qualifying requirements” are such requirements as may be set out in regulations made by the Scottish Ministers.
- (4) Where the Registrar General accepts a nomination made under subsection (1), the Registrar General—
  - (a) must determine the period during which the nominee is empowered to register civil partnerships, being a period of not more than 3 years,
  - (b) may determine that the nominee is empowered to register civil partnerships only in such area or place as the Registrar General may specify, and
  - (c) may make acceptance of the nominee's registration subject to such other conditions as the Registrar General thinks fit.
- (5) Nothing in subsection (4)(a) prevents the Registrar General from accepting a further nomination of that nominee, in accordance with this section, to take effect at any time after the end of the period determined by the Registrar General under subsection (4)(a).
- (6) The Registrar General must—
  - (a) if accepting a nomination made under subsection (1)—
    - (i) so inform the nominee and the nominating body, specifying the period during which the acceptance has effect and any condition to which the acceptance is subject,
    - (ii) enter the name of the nominee, the nominating body and such other particulars as the Registrar General thinks fit in a register which the Registrar General must establish and maintain and which must be made available for public inspection at all reasonable times free of charge,
  - (b) if rejecting a nomination made under subsection (1), by notice in writing inform the nominating body of the reasons for that rejection.
- (7) For the purposes of subsection (6)(b), notice which is given by electronic means is to be treated as in writing if it is received in a form which is legible and capable of being used for subsequent reference.

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- (8) If the nominating body is aggrieved by a rejection under this section it may, within 28 days of receiving notice of the rejection, appeal to the Scottish Ministers.
- (9) On any such appeal the Scottish Ministers may—
- (a) direct the Registrar General to accept the nomination, or
  - (b) confirm the rejection of the nomination,
- and must inform the nominating body of their decision and the reason for it; and their decision is final.
- (10) If a reason given for confirming the rejection of a nomination is that the nominating body is not a religious or belief body, the body may, within 42 days of receiving notice of the confirmation, appeal against the decision to the Court of Session and seek the determination of that court as to whether the body is a religious or belief body.
- (11) If—
- (a) the Court determines that the nominating body is a religious or belief body, and
  - (b) the reason mentioned in subsection (10) was the only reason given for confirming the rejection of the nomination,
- the Registrar General must give effect to the determination as if it were a direction under subsection (9)(a) to accept the nomination.

#### **94C Removal of celebrant's name from register**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Registrar General may remove the name of a person registered under section 94B from the register on the ground that—
- (a) the person has requested that the person's name should be so removed,
  - (b) the body which nominated the person under section 94B(1) no longer desires that the person should be so registered,
  - (c) the person—
    - (i) has, while registered as an approved celebrant, been convicted of an offence under this Part,
    - (ii) has, for the purpose of profit or gain, been carrying on a business of registering civil partnerships,
    - (iii) is not a fit and proper person to register civil partnerships, or
    - (iv) for any other reason, should not be registered as an approved celebrant.
- (2) The Registrar General may not remove the name of a person from the register on any ground mentioned in subsection (1)(c) unless the Registrar General has given the person at least 21 days notice in writing of the intention to do so.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), notice which is given by electronic means is to be treated as in writing if it is received in a form which is legible and capable of being used for subsequent reference.
- (4) The Registrar General must—

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*Changes to legislation:* There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014. (See end of Document for details)

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- (a) in the notice given under subsection (2), specify the ground of removal and call upon the person to give any reasons, within the period specified in the notice, why the person's name should not be removed from the register, and
  - (b) consider any representations made within that period by the person.
- (5) Where a person's name has been removed from the register on any of the grounds mentioned in paragraph (c) of subsection (1), the person or the body which nominated the person under section 94B(1) may, if aggrieved by the removal, within 28 days of receiving notice of the removal appeal to the Scottish Ministers.
- (6) On an appeal under subsection (5) the Scottish Ministers may give any direction they think proper to the Registrar General as to the removal from, or restoration to, the register of the person's name; and such direction is final.
- (7) Where a person has received a notice in pursuance of subsection (2), the person must not register a civil partnership unless and until the person's name is restored to the register or, as the case may be, the Registrar General has decided not to remove the person's name from the register.

#### **94D Alterations to register maintained under section 94B**

- (1) A body registered in pursuance of section 94B(6)(a)(ii) must notify the Registrar General of any of the following events (if practicable, within 21 days of its occurrence)—
  - (a) any change in the name or the address of the body or any amalgamation with any other religious or belief body, giving the name and address of any approved celebrant who is a member of the body so registered,
  - (b) the death of an approved celebrant who is a member of the body so registered,
  - (c) any change of name, address or designation of an approved celebrant who is a member of the body so registered,
  - (d) the cessation of an approved celebrant who is a member of the body so registered from exercising the functions of an approved celebrant, giving the person's name and address.
- (2) The Registrar General must, on receipt of any such notification, make whatever alteration to the register maintained under section 94B the Registrar General considers necessary or desirable.

#### **94E Temporary authorisation of celebrants**

- (1) The Registrar General may, in accordance with such terms and conditions as may be specified in the authorisation, grant to any member of a religious or belief body a temporary written authorisation to register—
  - (a) a civil partnership or partnerships specified in the authorisation, or
  - (b) civil partnerships during such period as is specified in the authorisation.

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*Changes to legislation:* There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014. (See end of Document for details)

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- (2) The Registrar General may grant an authorisation to a person under subsection (1) only if satisfied that the religious or belief body of which the person is a member meets the qualifying requirements.
- (3) The Registrar General may grant an authorisation to a person under subsection (1)(b) only if the religious or belief body of which the person is a member—
- (a) is prescribed by virtue of section 94A(1)(a)(i), or
  - (b) has nominated members (whether or not including that person) under section 94B(1).
- (4) In subsection (2), the “qualifying requirements” are such requirements as may be set out in regulations made by the Scottish Ministers.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (1), an authorisation which is issued by electronic means is to be treated as written if it is received in a form which is legible and capable of being used for subsequent reference.”.
- (14) In section 95 (further provision as to registration)—
- (a) in subsection (1), after “85” insert “ the approved celebrant or, as the case may be, ”,
  - (b) after subsection (1) insert—
 

“(1A) In the case of a religious or belief civil partnership, the parties to the civil partnership must, within 3 days of signing the civil partnership schedule in accordance with section 85(4), deliver the civil partnership schedule, or send it by post or arrange that it is delivered, to the district registrar.”,
  - (c) in subsection (2), for “after the civil partnership schedule has been signed, the authorised registrar” substitute “after—
    - (a) in the case of a civil registration, the civil partnership schedule has been signed in accordance with section 85, or
    - (b) in the case of a religious or belief civil partnership, the district registrar receives the civil partnership schedule,

the district registrar ”,
  - (d) after subsection (3) insert—
 

“(3A) The district registrar must not enter the particulars set out in the civil partnership schedule relating to a religious or belief civil partnership in the civil partnership register unless and until the registrar receives a duly signed civil partnership schedule in respect of that civil partnership.

(3B) Where the Registrar General is satisfied that—

    - (a) a civil partnership has been properly registered, and
    - (b) the civil partnership schedule in respect of the civil partnership has been duly signed but has been lost or destroyed,

the Registrar General may direct the district registrar to complete an exact copy of the original civil partnership schedule and, so far as practicable, to arrange for its signature by those persons who signed the original schedule.

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(3C) As soon as possible after the copy schedule has been signed, the district registrar must cause the particulars as set out in it to be entered into the civil partnership register.”, and

(e) in subsection (4), after “their” insert “ civil ”.

(15) After section 95 insert—

**“95ZA Registrar's power to require delivery of civil partnership schedule**

(1) Where the civil partnership schedule is not delivered to the district registrar within 21 days from the date of registration as entered in the schedule, the registrar may serve a notice in the prescribed form on either of the parties to the civil partnership requiring that party within 8 days from the date of service to deliver the schedule, or send it by post, to the registrar.

(2) If a person on whom a notice has been served under subsection (1) fails to comply with the notice, the district registrar may serve on the person a second notice in the prescribed form requiring the person to attend personally at the registration office of the district registrar, within 8 days from the date of service of the second notice, for the purpose of delivering the civil partnership schedule to the district registrar to enable the registrar to enter the civil partnership in the civil partnership register.”.

(16) In section 95A (validity following entry in civil partnership register), in subsection (1), after “95(2)” insert “ or (3C) ”.

(17) In section 96 (civil partnership with former spouse)—

(a) in subsection (3)(b), for “91” substitute “ 91(1) ”, and

(b) in subsection (3)(c), for “paragraph (b)” substitute “ subsection (1)(b) ”.

(18) In section 97 (certificates of no impediment for Part 2 purposes)—

(a) in subsection (4), for “14 days” substitute “ 28 days ”, and

(b) after subsection (5) insert—

“(5A) For the purposes of subsection (5), an objection which is submitted by electronic means is to be treated as in writing if it is received in a form which is legible and capable of being used for subsequent reference.”.

(19) In section 100 (offences)—

(a) in subsection (2)—

(i) in paragraphs (c), (d) and (e), after “being” insert “ an approved celebrant or, as the case may be, ”, and

(ii) in paragraph (f), for the words from “a” in the second place where it appears to the end substitute “ in accordance with section 93 ”,

(b) after subsection (3) insert—

“(3A) A person commits an offence if the person—

(a) registers a civil partnership in an area or place in which by virtue of section 94B(4)(b) the person is not permitted to register a civil partnership,

(b) registers a civil partnership in contravention of section 94C(7),

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the  
 Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014. (See end of Document for details)*

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- (c) being a person temporarily authorised under section 94E—
    - (i) if authorised under subsection (1)(a) of that section, registers a civil partnership not specified in the authorisation,
    - (ii) if authorised under subsection (1)(b) of that section, registers a civil partnership outwith the period specified in the authorisation,
    - (iii) in either case, registers a civil partnership otherwise than in accordance with such terms and conditions as may be specified in the authorisation,
  - (d) being a party to a civil partnership, fails to comply with a notice served under section 95ZA(2).
- (3B) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (3A) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.”, and
- (c) in subsection (4), for “or (2)” substitute “, (2) or (3A)”.
- (20) In section 126(4) (regulations), after “section” insert “ 94A(1)(a)(i) or (5), 94B(3), 94E(4) or ”.
- (21) In section 135(1) (interpretation of Part 3)—
- (a) after the definition of “the 1965 Act” insert—
    - ““approved celebrant” has the meaning given by section 94A(4)(a);”,
  - (b) after the definition of “civil partnership schedule” insert—
    - ““civil registration” has the meaning given by section 94A(4)(c);”,
    - and
  - (c) after the definition of “registration office” insert—
    - ““religious or belief body” means an organised group of people—
    - (a) which meets regularly for religious worship, or
    - (b) the principal object (or one of the principal objects) of which is to uphold or promote philosophical beliefs and which meets regularly for that purpose;

“religious or belief civil partnership” has the meaning given by section 94A(4)(b);”.
- (22) For schedule 10 substitute—

“SCHEDULE 10

*(introduced by section 86)*

FORBIDDEN DEGREES OF RELATIONSHIP: SCOTLAND

(1) ***Relationships by consanguinity***

- Parent
- Child
- Grandparent
- Grandchild

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Sibling  
Aunt or uncle  
Niece or nephew  
Great-grandparent  
Great-grandchild

(2) ***Relationships by affinity referred to in section 86(3)***

Child of former spouse  
Child of former civil partner  
Former spouse of parent  
Former civil partner of parent  
Former spouse of grandparent  
Former civil partner of grandparent  
Grandchild of former spouse  
Grandchild of former civil partner.”.

**Commencement Information**

- I35** S. 24(1)(13)(15) in force at 1.9.2014 for specified purposes by [S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, Sch.](#)
- I36** S. 24(1)(13) in force at 16.12.2014 for specified purposes by [S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch.](#)
- I37** [S. 24\(1\)](#) in force at 1.3.2015 for specified purposes by [S.S.I. 2015/14, art. 2, Sch.](#)
- I38** S. 24(2)-(6)(7)(a)(c) (8)(a)(b)(i)(iii)(c)(9)-(11) (12)(a)(b)(ii)(c)(14)(16)(17)(18)(b)(19)-(22) in force at 16.12.2014 by [S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch.](#)
- I39** [S. 24\(7\)\(b\)\(8\)\(b\)\(ii\)\(12\)\(b\)\(i\)\(18\)\(a\)](#) in force at 1.3.2015 by [S.S.I. 2015/14, art. 2, Sch.](#) (with art. 3(2)(4))
- I40** S. 24(15) in force at 16.12.2014 in so far as not already in force by [S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch.](#)

**25 Power of district registrar to require evidence of nationality: civil partnership**

In section 88 of the 2004 Act (notice of proposed civil partnership), after subsection (7) (inserted by section 24(5) of this Act) insert—

- “(8) A district registrar to whom a notice under subsection (1) is submitted may require the person submitting the notice to provide the district registrar with specified nationality evidence relating to each of the intended civil partners.
- (9) A requirement under subsection (8) may be imposed at any time—
- (a) on or after the submitting of the notice under subsection (1), but
- (b) before the district registrar completes the civil partnership schedule.
- (10) In subsection (8), “specified nationality evidence” means such evidence of that person's nationality as may be specified in guidance issued by the Registrar General.”.

**Commencement Information**

- I41** [S. 25](#) in force at 1.9.2014 by [S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, Sch.](#)

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the  
 Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014. (See end of Document for details)*

## 26 Recognition of overseas relationships

- (1) The 2004 Act is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 214 (general conditions in relation to recognition of overseas relationships)
- 
- (a) after paragraph (b) insert—
- “(ba) the relationship is not one of marriage,” and
- (b) in paragraph (c), for the words from the second “or” to the end substitute “but are not treated as married”.
- (3) In schedule 20 to the 2004 Act (specified relationships), the following entries are repealed—

“Argentina	marriage”,
“Belgium	marriage”,
“Brazil	marriage”,
“Canada	marriage”,
“Denmark	marriage”,
“Iceland	marriage”,
“Mexico: Mexico City Federal District	marriage”,
“Netherlands	marriage”,
“Norway	marriage”,
“Portugal	marriage”,
“South Africa	marriage”,
“Spain	marriage”,
“Sweden	marriage”,
“United States of America: California	marriage”,
“United States of America: Connecticut	marriage”,



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*Changes to legislation:* There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014. (See end of Document for details)

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“United States of America: District of Columbia marriage”,

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“United States of America: Iowa marriage”,

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“United States of America: Massachusetts marriage”,

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“United States of America: New Hampshire marriage”,

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“United States of America: New York marriage”,

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“United States of America: Vermont marriage”.

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**Commencement Information**

**I42** S. 26 in force at 16.12.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch. (with art. 5)

**27 Dissolution of civil partnership: evidence**

- (1) Article 2 of the 2012 Order (which disapplies from certain actions for dissolution of civil partnership section 8(3A) of the Civil Evidence (Scotland) Act 1988 (requirement for evidence other than that of a party to the civil partnership)) is to be taken to have been in force since 5 December 2005 and to have had effect in relation to actions raised before 30 March 2012 as it has effect in relation to actions raised on or after that date.
- (2) The “2012 Order” is the Evidence in Civil Partnership and Divorce Actions (Scotland) Order 2012 (SSI 2012/111).

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**Commencement Information**

**I43** S. 27 in force at 21.5.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/121, art. 2(f)

**PART 3**

MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP: OTHER PROVISION

**28 Bigamy**

- (1) In section 24 of the 1977 Act (offences)—
  - (a) before subsection (1) insert—
 

“(A1) A person (“A”) commits an offence if A purports to enter into a marriage with another person (“B”) knowing that either or both—

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014. (See end of Document for details)*

- (a) A is already married to or in a civil partnership with a person other than B, or
  - (b) B is already married to or in a civil partnership with a person other than A.
- (A2) A person who commits an offence under subsection (A1) is liable—
- (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to a fine (or both),
  - (b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum (or both).”, and
- (b) in subsection (1)(ii), for “prescribed sum” substitute “ statutory maximum ”.
- (2) In section 100 of the 2004 Act (offences)—
- (a) in subsection (1), for “registers” substitute “ purports to register ”, and
  - (b) in subsection (3)(b), for “level 3 on the standard scale” substitute “ the statutory maximum ”.
- (3) The common law offence of bigamy is abolished.
- (4) In section 13 of the Presumption of Death (Scotland) Act 1977 (defence to charge of bigamy)—
- (a) for “bigamy” substitute “ committing an offence under section 24(A1) of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 or section 100(1) of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ”,
  - (b) after “marriage” insert “ or civil partnership ”, and
  - (c) after “spouse” insert “ or civil partner ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I44** S. 28 in force at 1.9.2014 by [S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, Sch.](#)

**PART 4**

CHANGE OF GENDER OF MARRIED PERSONS OR CIVIL PARTNERS

**29 Change of gender of married persons or civil partners**

Schedule 2 (change of gender of married persons or civil partners) has effect.

**Commencement Information**

**I45** S. 29 in force at 1.9.2014 for specified purposes by [S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, Sch.](#)

**I46** S. 29 in force at 16.12.2014 in so far as not already in force by [S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch.](#)

**30 Renewed marriage or civil partnership following issue of full gender recognition certificate**

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision about—

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*Changes to legislation:* There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014. (See end of Document for details)

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- (a) the solemnisation of a renewed marriage between the parties to a protected Scottish marriage following the issue of a full gender recognition certificate to a party (or both parties) to the marriage,
  - (b) the registration of a renewed civil partnership between the parties to a protected Scottish civil partnership following the issue of full gender recognition certificates to [F2 a party (or both parties)] to the civil partnership.
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) may in particular make provision—
- (a) about the submitting by the parties to the protected Scottish marriage of notice of intention to enter into a renewed marriage,
  - (b) about the submitting by the parties to the protected Scottish civil partnership of notice of intention to enter into a renewed civil partnership,
  - (c) about the information to be provided by the parties,
  - (d) about the provision of evidence by the parties,
  - (e) for the parties to appear before any person or appear at any place,
  - (f) conferring functions on persons in relation to a renewed marriage or renewed civil partnership,
  - (g) for fees, of such amounts as are specified in or determined in accordance with the regulations, to be payable in respect of—
    - (i) the submitting of notice of intention to enter into a renewed marriage or renewed civil partnership,
    - (ii) the exercise of any function conferred by virtue of paragraph (f).
- (3) Functions conferred by virtue of subsection (2)(f) may include functions relating to—
- (a) the recording of information relating to a renewed marriage or renewed civil partnership,
  - (b) the issuing of certified copies of any information recorded,
  - (c) the conducting of services or ceremonies in connection with a renewed marriage or renewed civil partnership.
- (4) Before making regulations under subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers must consult the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (1)—
- (a) may include consequential, supplementary, incidental, transitional, transitory or saving provision,
  - (b) may make provision applying any provision of the 1977 Act or the 2004 Act (either with or without modifications),
  - (c) may modify any enactment (including this Act),
  - (d) are (except where subsection (6) applies) subject to the negative procedure.
- (6) Regulations under subsection (1) which add to, replace or omit any part of the text of an Act are subject to the affirmative procedure.
- (7) In this section “full gender recognition certificate”, “protected Scottish civil partnership” and “protected Scottish marriage” have the meanings given by section 25 of the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

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#### Textual Amendments

**F2** Words in s. 30(1)(b) substituted (30.11.2021) by [Civil Partnership \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 15\)](#), s. 16, [sch. 2 para. 7\(2\)](#); [S.S.I. 2021/351](#), reg. 2, sch. (with [reg. 3](#))

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014. (See end of Document for details)*

#### Commencement Information

I47 S. 30 in force at 1.9.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, Sch.

### 31 Grounds of divorce: interim gender recognition certificate followed by full certificate

- (1) Section 1 of the Divorce (Scotland) Act 1976 (grounds of divorce) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1)(b) (issue of interim gender recognition certificate as ground on which decree of divorce may be granted), at the beginning insert “ subject to subsection (3B), ”.
- (3) After subsection (3A) (inserted by section 5(2) of this Act) insert—
  - “(3B) Subsection (1)(b)—
    - (a) does not apply where, under the Gender Recognition Act 2004, the Gender Recognition Panel issue a full gender recognition certificate to the person to whom the interim gender recognition certificate was issued, but
    - (b) continues to apply despite a full gender recognition certificate being issued to that person by the sheriff under section 4E of that Act.”.

#### Commencement Information

I48 S. 31 in force at 16.12.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, Sch.

## PART 5

### REGISTRATION SERVICES

### 32 Provision of certain information to district registrars

In section 39C(1)(a)(i) of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965 (provision of certain information to district registrars), for “section 34(3)” substitute “ section 34(4) ”.

#### Commencement Information

I49 S. 32 in force at 21.5.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/121, art. 2(g)

### 33 Form of register of marriages

In section 54 of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965 (regulations), after subsection (1) insert—

“(1A) Regulations prescribing the form of a register of marriages under section 32 may make different provision for different cases or circumstances.”.

**Commencement Information**

**I50** S. 33 in force at 1.9.2014 by S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, Sch.

**PART 6**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**34 Interpretation**

In this Act—

- “the 1977 Act” means the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977,
- “the 2004 Act” means the Civil Partnership Act 2004.

**35 Ancillary provision**

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by order make such supplementary, incidental, consequential, transitional, transitory or saving provision as they consider necessary or expedient for the purposes of, or in connection with, or for giving full effect to, any provision of this Act.
- (2) An order under subsection (1) may make different provision for different purposes.
- (3) An order under subsection (1) may modify any enactment (including this Act).
- (4) Subject to subsection (5), an order under subsection (1) is subject to the negative procedure.
- (5) An order under subsection (1) containing provisions which add to, replace or omit any part of the text of an Act is subject to the affirmative procedure.

**36 Commencement**

- (1) This section and sections 34, 35 and 37 come into force on the day after Royal Assent.
- (2) The other provisions of this Act come into force on such day as the Scottish Ministers may by order appoint.
- (3) An order under subsection (2) may include transitional, transitory or saving provision.

**37 Short title**

The short title of this Act is the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014.