

MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This Bill seeks to amend the Marriage Act, Chapter 184 (the “principal Act”), to increase the minimum age at which a person may marry from sixteen years of age to eighteen years of age, and to remove any exceptions thereto, with consequential amendments to related regulations.

This Bill contains **ten (10) clauses** and **one (1) schedule**.

Clause 1 provides for the short title of the Act for which this is the Bill.

Clause 2 provides for the non-application of the Act to marriages solemnised prior to the date of its commencement.

Clause 3 provides for an amendment to section 3 of the principal Act to prohibit the solemnisation of marriages where either of the parties to the marriage is under eighteen years of age.

Clause 4 provides for an amendment to section 19 of the principal Act to remove all references to the requirement of parental consent with respect to the solemnisation of marriages.

Clause 5 provides for the repeal of section 20 of the principal Act to delete the provisions relating to the procedure when the consent of a parent or guardian is required.

Clause 6 provides for an amendment to section 21 of the principal Act to remove all references to the requirement or refusal of parental consent with respect to the solemnisation of marriages.

Clause 7 provides for an amendment to section 31 of the principal Act to prohibit the solemnisation of marriages in *articulo mortis* where either of the parties to the marriage is under eighteen years of age.

Clause 8 provides for an amendment to the First Schedule to the principal Act to remove all references to the requirement of parental consent with respect to the solemnisation of marriages in Forms 1 and 2, respectively.

Clause 9 provides for an amendment to the Fourth Schedule to the principal Act to remove all references to the requirement of parental consent with respect to the solemnisation of marriages in Form 1 thereof.

Clause 10 provides for consequential amendments to be made to the provisions of the regulations set out in the Schedule.

The **Schedule** sets out the specific consequential amendments, as referenced under clause 5, to be made to the Marriage (Special Licences) Regulations, Chapter 184 and the Marriage (Special Licences–Destination Wedding) Regulations, 2013 SRO No. 12 of 2013, respectively to remove all references to the requirement of parental consent with respect to the solemnisation of marriages.

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Sen. the Hon. Claudette Joseph
ATTORNEY-GENERAL

MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

1. Short title
2. Non-application of Act
3. Amendment to section 3 of the principal Act
4. Amendment to section 19 of the principal Act
5. Repeal of section 20 of the principal Act
6. Amendment to section 21 of the principal Act
7. Amendment to section 31 of the principal Act
8. Amendment of First Schedule to the principal Act
9. Amendment of Fourth Schedule to the principal Act
10. Consequential amendments

SCHEDULE - CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

GRENADA

ACT NO. OF 2025

AN ACT to amend the Marriage Act, Chapter 184.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Representatives of Grenada, and by the authority of the same as follows—

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the

MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2025,

and shall be read as one with the Marriage Act, Chapter 184 of the 2010 Continuous Revised Edition of the Laws of Grenada, hereinafter referred to as the “principal Act”.

Non-application of Act

2. This Act shall not apply to marriages solemnised prior to the date of commencement of this Act.

Amendment to section 3 of the principal Act

3. Section 3 of the principal Act is amended in subsection (3) by deleting the word “sixteen” where it appears and substituting therefor the word “eighteen”.

Amendment to section 19 of the principal Act

4. Section 19 of the principal Act is amended as follows—

- (a) in subsection (1), by deleting the words “and where consent is required that the consent of the persons authorised to give such consent has been obtained,” where they appear; and
- (b) in the proviso, by deleting the words “and, where consent is required, that the consent of the persons authorised to give such consent has been obtained” where they appear.

Repeal of section 20 of the principal Act

5. Section 20 of the principal Act is hereby repealed.

Amendment to section 21 of the principal Act

6. Section 21 of the principal Act is amended in subsection (3) as follows—

- (a) in paragraph (a), by deleting the words “or a refusal of consent on the part of any person whose consent is required to such marriage,” where they appear;
- (b) in paragraph (b)—
 - (i) by deleting the words “or any refusal of consent on the part of any person whose consent is required to such marriage,” where they appear; and
 - (ii) by deleting the words “, or where the objection is in the nature of a refusal of consent that such refusal is unreasonable and ought not to interfere with such marriage” where they appear.

Amendment to section 31 of the principal Act

7. Section 31 of the principal Act is amended by repealing subsection (3) and substituting therefor the following new subsection—

“(3) No such marriage shall be solemnised where either of the parties is under eighteen years of age.”.

Amendment of First Schedule to the principal Act

8. The First Schedule to the principal Act is amended as follows—

- (a) in Form 1, by deleting the following words where they appear—

“(To form part of the declaration when the party is under twenty-one years of age and is not a widower or widow)."

And I solemnly declare that I have the consent of all whose consent is necessary for my marriage, namely—

.....

“(here state names and authority of all whose consent is necessary)”;
 and

- (b) in Form 2, by deleting the following words where they appear—

“(To form part of the declaration when the parties are under twenty-one years of age and are not a widower or widow respectively)."

And we solemnly declare that we each have the consent of all whose consent is necessary for our marriage, namely—

.....

.....
(here state names and authority of all whose consent is necessary)".

Amendment of Fourth Schedule to the principal Act

9. The Fourth Schedule to the principal Act is amended in Form 1, by deleting the following words where they appear—

“(To form part of the declaration when the party is under twenty-one years of age and is not a widower or widow)."

And I solemnly declare that I have the consent of all whose consent is necessary for my marriage, namely—

.....
.....
(here state names and authority of all whose consent is necessary)".

Consequential amendments

10. The Regulations set out in the Schedule are amended to the extent specified in that Schedule.

SCHEDULE
CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

(section 10)

Amendment to Marriage (Special Licences) Regulations

1. The Marriage (Special Licences) Regulations, Chapter 184 is amended by repealing regulation 3 and substituting therefor the following new regulation—

“Application

3. The application shall be made in writing addressed to the Governor-General and signed by one of the parties to the intended marriage and shall state the full name, address, age, occupation and condition of both of the parties to the intended marriage.”.

Amendment to Marriage (Special Licences–Destination Wedding) Regulations

2. The Marriage (Special Licences–Destination Wedding) Regulations, 2013 SRO No. 12 of 2013 is amended as follows—

(a) by repealing regulation 8 and substituting therefor the following new regulation—

“Application

8. The application for a special licence set out in Form III of Schedule I, shall be made in writing addressed to the Governor-General and signed by one of the parties to the intended marriage and shall state the full name, address, age, occupation and condition of both of the parties to the intended marriage.”;

(b) in regulation 11—

(i) in paragraph (e)—

(A) by deleting the word “and” where it appears after the “semi-colon”; and

(B) by deleting the “semi-colon” at the end of the paragraph and substituting therefor a “full-stop”; and

(iii) by repealing paragraph (f); and

- (c) in Form III of Schedule I, by deleting the following words where they appear—

“(if not, is there a guardian?)
(to be filled up in cases of minors)

(Is the marriage with their consent?)
(A certificate of consent in the form prescribed for that purpose is necessary)".

Passed by the House of Representatives this day of , 2025.

Clerk to the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate this day of , 2025.

Clerk to the Senate