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## **KENYAN MARRIAGE PROCEDURES**

### **Ordinary License**

The usual marriage procedure involves filing a "Notice of Marriage" form with the Registrar General's Office and waiting twenty-one days. The fee for filing this notice is Kshs.200. After the twenty-one days, the couple completes the affidavit under S 11 of the Marriage Act, gets it commissioned by the Registrar and completes a Marriage Certificate Form. They pay Kshs.1, 500 and then book a date for the marriage. The marriage must take place within three months from the date of giving the 21-day notice.

One party will book the Marriage date which is either on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday. If there is no objection to the marriage raised during that time, permission is granted. On the Marriage date both parties will go to the Registrar's Office with two witnesses and they will be granted the Marriage Certificate.

Parties must be eighteen years old and above. Evidence of termination of any prior marriages must be presented. A passport is also required for persons who are not citizens of Kenya.

### **Special License**

The parties can apply for a Special License, which waives the twenty-one day waiting period. This is not a right and can be denied. The parties must state the reasons why they want an exemption from the waiting period and present an affidavit stating their marriage status. Marriages can be performed by a civil registrar or by clergy. At the Civil Registrar's Office there is a fee of Kshs.6,250. The breakdown is as follows:

- Special License - Kshs.5,000
- Ceremony - Kshs.1,000
- Marriage Certificate - Kshs. 200 (any certified copies are Kshs.200 each).
- Swearing - Kshs. 50
- ❖ Registrar Outside the Registrar's Office: If the marriage is celebrated by a third party somewhere other than the Registrar General's Office, the Marriage Officer will charge a fee of Kshs.10,250. There would be other charges which vary from case to case.

### **Hours of operation:**

To see Registrar of Marriage: Monday through Friday: 9am and 3pm  
To make any payment at the Cashiers: Monday through Friday: 9am and 3pm

### **How to contact the Department of Registrar-General, Nairobi, Kenya:**

It is recommended that regardless of where one intends to get married in Kenya, first pay a visit to the Registrar-General's office in Nairobi, Kenya and avoid fraudsters.

**Physical address:** Sheria House, Harambee Avenue, Nairobi  
The Registrar General's Reception - Room 209  
The Registrar General's Office - Room 210

**Telephone number:** 222 7461 ext 37180/37015.

**Postal address:** P. O. Box 30031, Harambee Avenue, Nairobi.

Forms can be completed upon arrival in Kenya.

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