

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. When will the solemnizations through video link be allowed to take place?

ROM and ROMM are aiming to implement the provisions in the Act in the 2nd half of May 2020. More details, including the start date, will be announced later.

2. What is the eligibility criteria for verification of documents, making statutory declarations and solemnization through video link?

When the Act is in force, marrying couples, where at least one party is a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident will be eligible for verification of documents, statutory declaration (VD/SD) and solemnization through video link. In addition, the couple, their witnesses, and the *wali* (for Muslim marriages) must also be physically in Singapore during the solemnization.

However, couples with foreign documents must still verify documents and make their statutory declarations in person at ROM/ROMM, to ensure sufficient scrutiny of the documents.

3. How many couples originally scheduled their solemnizations during the circuit breaker period (7 Apr to 1 Jun)?

2,723 couples were originally scheduled to solemnize their marriages with ROM and ROMM between 7 Apr and 1 Jun.

4. How will solemnizations through video link be done? How do I opt for solemnization through video link? Where can I go to find out more?

More details will be released on the following websites when the Act is in force:

ROM: www.rom.gov.sg

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5. If my notice of marriage (for civil marriages) expired / was cancelled during the circuit breaker period, am I eligible for solemnization through video link?

For a marriage to be valid, the notice of marriage needs to be valid at the point of solemnization, whether done through video link or in person. If your notice of marriage has expired / been cancelled and/or the fee has been refunded, please file a new notice of marriage online at www.rom.gov.sg.

6. Will I be eligible for solemnization through video link if I had postponed my wedding because of earlier restrictions on social gathering sizes?

If you need to get married urgently during the circuit breaker period, please inform ROM by filling in the form at go.gov.sg/rom-covid19 or emailing ROMM at mccy_romm@mccy.gov.sg. Those applying for civil marriages will also need to file your notice of marriage.

7. Should I file a notice of marriage now to qualify for solemnization through video link? [Applicable only to civil marriages]

ROM will prioritise couples who had to postpone their solemnization date due to the circuit breaker measures and will allocate a preferred date subject to availability. We will contact affected couples to inform them of these arrangements.

8. Why are only couples with Singapore-issued documents eligible for verification of documents and statutory declaration through video link?

As marriage is bound by law, it is necessary to ensure that there are stringent checks in place for the verification of documents, especially if done through video link. Singapore-issued documents are typically Government-issued (e.g. NRIC) and can be verified. However, foreign documents require a more complex level of checks and verification, including verifying the identity and status of the parties, to ensure that the solemnization is legally valid.

9. Must the bride, groom, witnesses and wali (for Muslim marriages) be in different physical locations in Singapore for the proceedings?

The bride, groom, witnesses, and wali (for Muslim marriages) can be in the same location if they belong to the same household. In line with the safe distancing measures, people from different households should not gather for the solemnization. Such processes through video links are to enable marriage solemnizations to take place in a safe manner.

10. Are religious leaders able to conduct solemnizations through video link? [Only applicable to civil marriages]

Religious organisations and religious leaders who are Licensed Solemnizers have the discretion to decide if they wish to perform solemnizations through video link.

11. Will friends and families of the couple be able to join in the solemnization through video link to observe and celebrate with the couple?

Friends and families of the couple can do so, but through video link only. We recognise that marriage is an important milestone in life, and it is understandable to want to share this with our loved ones. We will allow other family members and friends to view the solemnization through the video link. However, they must do so in their respective households, in line with the existing safe distancing measures.

12. For Muslims, will the use of technology affect the validity of the marriage under Islamic law?

Before introducing this Bill, ROMM sought guidance from the Office of the Mufti on whether marriage proceedings through video links are permitted under Islamic law.

The Office of the Mufti has clarified that using technology will not affect the validity of marriages under Islamic law, so long as the Kadi or Naib Kadi can ensure that all the conditions set out under Islamic law are met.

The Office of the Mufti's Irsyad can be found at:
<https://www.muis.gov.sg/officeofthemufti/Irsyad>.

For solemnizations through video link, the Kadi/Naib Kadi will perform similar steps as physical solemnizations but via a live video link:

- Confirming the identities and consent of the couples to the marriage
- Giving a short sermon
- Presiding over the solemnization
- Reciting the *taklik* (special conditions)
- Giving a supplication and blessing the couples

13. After completing the verification of documents and making the statutory declaration through video link, will physical solemnizations be allowed should the circuit breaker measures be lifted? Will there be any guest restrictions at that point?

The safe distancing measures and guest restrictions that need to be adhered to will depend on the COVID-19 situation at that point in time. You may wish to refer to www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19 for updates on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore.