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**CHAPTER 124A****MARITIME MARRIAGE****MARITIME MARRIAGE RULES****ARRANGEMENT OF RULES****RULE**

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**CHAPTER 124A**

MARITIME MARRIAGE  
**MARITIME MARRIAGE RULES**  
 (SECTION 28)

*S.I. 11/2013*  
*S.I. 41/2013*  
*S.I. 79/2013*

*[Commencement 1st February, 2013]*

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| <p><b>1.</b> These Rules may be cited as the Maritime Marriage Rules.</p>   | <p>Citation.</p>   |
| <p><b>2.</b> In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, namely —</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">“Act” means the Maritime Marriage Act; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">“marriage officer” includes provisional marriage officer.</p>   | <p>Interpretation.</p> <p>Ch. 124A.</p>  |
| <p><b>3.</b> The Registrar-General shall furnish to every marriage officer, upon payment of the fees specified in the Second Schedule, a copy of —</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">(a) the Maritime Marriage Log Book; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">(b) all necessary forms for the purpose of registering marriages contracted or witnessed by him.</p>   | <p>Registrar-General to furnish supplies to marriage officer.<br/>Second Schedule.</p> |
| <p><b>4.</b> Every marriage officer, Registrar of Marriages and an intended party to the contract of a maritime marriage, shall make himself fully acquainted with his requirements under the Act, these Rules and any other subsidiary legislation, that is binding upon him.</p>  | <p>Duty of persons to be familiar with provisions of the Act and Rules.</p>            |
| <p><b>5.</b> (1) Every marriage officer licence granted by the Registrar-General to the master or provisional marriage officer shall be valid for one year from the issuance date inscribed thereon.</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">(2) Every master or provisional marriage officer shall apply for the grant of a marriage officer licence as prescribed under section 3(2) of the Act in the manner set</p> | <p>Procedure for master to be licensed as marriage officer.</p>                        |

forth in Form I of the First Schedule accompanied by the payment of the prescribed fee.

First Schedule. (3) Every application prescribed under section 3(3) of the Act shall be in the manner set forth in Form I of the First Schedule accompanied by the payment of the prescribed fee.

First Schedule. (4) Every master or provisional marriage officer shall apply for the renewal of his expired marriage officer licence as prescribed under section 3(2) of the Act, by expressly making the appropriate inscription on the application form set out in Form I of the First Schedule accompanied by the payment of the prescribed fee.

First Schedule. (5) Every master or provisional marriage officer shall apply for the renewal of his expired marriage officer licence as prescribed under section 3(3) of the Act, by expressly making the appropriate inscription on the application form set out in Form I of the First Schedule accompanied by the payment of the prescribed fee.

Procedure for ceasing to act as marriage officer. **6.** Every marriage officer shall, on ceasing so to act, immediately notify this fact in writing to the Registrar-General.

Application for a Special Licence. First Schedule. **7.** Every applicant who applies for the grant of a Special Licence, shall complete and submit to the Registrar-General Forms II and III of the First Schedule, as required under section 14(2) of the Act along with paying the prescribed fee for these applications to be processed.

Transmission of duplicate statement of marriage to Registrar. **8.** (1) Every marriage officer shall transmit to the Registrar by registered mail and electronically, within fourteen days after the marriage has been contracted, the duplicate statement of the marriage signed by such officer, the parties to the marriage and two credible witnesses as prescribed in section 19(1) of the Act.

First Schedule. (2) The duplicate statement of marriage referred to in paragraph (1), shall be in the manner set forth in Form IV of the First Schedule.

Registrar to acknowledge duplicate statement of marriage from marriage officer. **9.** (1) The Registrar shall acknowledge in writing, the receipt of each duplicate statement of marriage submitted to him by every marriage officer.

(2) Where the marriage officer submits the duplicate statement of marriage to the Registrar and subsequently receives no written acknowledgement from the Registrar,

the marriage officer shall immediately report this fact to the Registrar.

(3) Where the Registrar receives a report from the marriage officer disclosing that the marriage officer has not received a written acknowledgement of the duplicate statement of marriage from the Registrar, the Registrar shall make an immediate enquiry as to reason of the non-delivery of the acknowledgement.

**10.** (1) A Register of Maritime Marriages is a legal record which may at any time, be required to be produced in a court of law as evidence or for any other purpose.

Register of Maritime Marriages is legal record.

(2) Every entry in the Register of Maritime Marriages should not only be accurately made as to the facts required to be set forth in it, but every word therein should be clearly and distinctly written.

**11.** (1) Where any form in the Register of Maritime Marriages is accidentally rendered useless, it shall not be destroyed.

Procedure for rendering a form in Register Maritime Marriages useless.

(2) Where any form in the Register of Maritime Marriages is rendered useless, the word “cancelled” shall be written on the form and the correspondingly numbered form in the duplicate register.

(3) The cancelled duplicate form shall be sent up to the Registrar in its regular order of number, and the cancelled original form shall be left in its place in the marriage register.

**12.** In order to avoid errors and obliterations in the Maritime Marriage Log Book, the particulars of an intended party to the marriage, especially his full name, shall be recorded on a piece of paper by the marriage officer and shown or read to the party before the particulars are recorded in the Maritime Marriage Log Book.

Avoidance of errors and obliterations in Maritime Marriage Log Book.

**13.** (1) If any word, letter or figure is inserted erroneously in the Register of Maritime Marriages by the marriage officer, the marriage officer shall draw a line through it and make the correct insertion, but the marriage officer shall not make any erasure or remove what has been previously recorded by scraping the paper with a sharp instrument, or by other means; the surface of any incorrect word, letter, or figure shall not be written over.

No erasures In the Register of Maritime Marriages.

(2) Each correction made in writing in the Register of Maritime Marriages by the marriage officer shall be

made before each party appends his signature thereto; each correction in this Register shall be initialled and dated by the marriage officer.

Names, dates and ages to be written in full.

**14.** The marriage officer shall enter in the Maritime Marriage Log Book and the Register of Maritime Marriages, all required particulars including the full names and ages of each intended party to the marriage and the date, at full length and horizontally across the page in these books.

Usual signature of party to be appended in form.

**15.** Each signature of an intended party, witness and officer, shall be written on each form in the manner that is usually signed by these persons.

Officer to obtain signature of person who can write.

**16.** (1) Each officer should obtain signatures in preference to “marks” where the person can write, an indifferent or even a bad signature shall be accepted as opposed to a mere mark.

(2) Where the signature of each party to the intended marriage who can write is so ill-written that it cannot be read with certainty, the marriage officer shall write the full name of the party in pencil against the party’s ill-written signature.

Writing requirements for an intended party who is unable to write name.  
Ch. 67.

**17.** Where an intended party to the marriage does not know how to write his name, the legal requirements codified under sections 4 and 5 of the Execution of Documents (Handicapped Persons) Act, shall be strictly complied with by this party.

Allowance of discrepancy of an intended party’s name.

**18.** Where an intended party to the marriage bears a common Christian name and writes this name correctly in one section of a form or document required under the Act or these Rules, but signs his name incorrectly in another section of the same form or document, this discrepancy shall be allowed to remain.

Marriage officer to ensure continuity of numbers in Register.

**19.** The marriage officer shall exercise caution and ensure that in both the original and duplicate Register of Maritime Marriages, the entry about to be made shall follow in exact corresponding order of numbers (without intervening blank spaces or forms) from the entry last previously made.

Quality of ink.

**20.** The marriage officer shall ensure that good quality of black ink shall be used for registration purposes.

Handing over to new marriage officer.

**21.** (1) Every marriage officer shall immediately supply to his newly appointed successor in office, the

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Maritime Marriage Log Book, Register of Maritime Marriages and all other documents relating to the registration of a maritime marriage.

(2) Every newly appointed marriage officer shall make a list of all books, registers and all other documents relating to the registration of a maritime marriage that he receives from his predecessor in office, and immediately submit this list to the Registrar.

**22.** (1) Every marriage officer shall explain to the intended parties who have given notice of an intended marriage, that the certificate of such notice of marriage cannot be issued until seven clear days have expired, after the day of entry of notice in the marriage notice book.

Lapse of time between issue of notice and certificate for marriage.

(2) Every marriage officer shall explain to the intended parties, that the marriage shall take place within three calendar months after the day of the entry of the notice; otherwise it will become necessary for a new notice to be given and for a new entry to be made.

**23.** Every marriage officer shall comply with the provisions of these Rules with relation to the execution and performance of his duties under the Act.

Requirement for each officer to comply with Rules.

**24.** Each fee entry for each service set out in the Second Schedule, shall be paid by the relevant party or person prescribed under the Act.

Payment of fees for services rendered under the Act. Second Schedule.

**FIRST SCHEDULE (Rule 5)**

**FORM I**

**APPLICATION FOR MARRIAGE OFFICER’S LICENCE**

TO: THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL &  
THE REGISTRAR OF SHIPPING

FULL NAME OF APPLICANT:.....

DATE OF BIRTH (dd/mm/yyyy): .....

FULL ADDRESS: .....

NATIONALITY: .....

CAPACITY/JOB DESCRIPTION: .....

COMPANY: .....

COMPANY’S ADDRESS: .....

NAME OF THE SHIP ON WHICH THE APPLICANT  
MAKES AN APPLICATION TO BE LICENSED AS A  
MARRIAGE OFFICER:

INDICATE WHETHER THIS APPLICATION IS

- (a) a renewal of a previous permit ( )
- (b) a new application for the grant of a marriage officer’s licence ( )

IF IT IS FOR A RENEWAL OF A PREVIOUS  
APPLICATION, STATE THE ORIGINAL LICENCE  
NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: IN CASE OF NEW APPLICATIONS, PLEASE SUBMIT  
PROOF OF CAPTAIN’S LICENCE OR THE LICENCE OF  
THE PERSON WHO IS SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE  
SHIP AND THE APPLICANT’S PASSPORT OR  
DRIVER’S LICENCE.**

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
NEW( )	RENEWAL ( )

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER: .....

DATE OF APPLICATION (dd/mm/yyyy): .....



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REGISTRAR GENERAL'S STAMP

(NB: EVERY APPLICANT IS REQUIRED TO AFFIX TO THIS FORM, ONE COLOURED PASSPORT SIZED PHOTOGRAPH.)

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**FOR BAHAMAS MARITIME AUTHORITY USE ONLY**

Certificate of Endorsement attached: Yes ( ) No ( )

Registrar of Bahamian Ships recommendation: .....

Signature of authorised official: .....

Name of authorised official: ..... Date (dd/mm/yyyy): .....

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**FORM II (Rule 7)**  
**APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL LICENCE**

TO: THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL  
THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S  
DEPARTMENT NASSAU, NEW  
PROVIDENCE, THE BAHAMAS

I, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup>, firstly hereunder named and described hereby give you notice that a marriage is intended between me and the person secondly hereunder named and described, that is to say:

**1.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name [Christian, middle and Surname]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marital Status<sup>2</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Profession or occupation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sex at birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Father

\_\_\_\_\_  
Residential address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of ship on which marriage is to be contracted

**2.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name

<sup>1</sup> Insert here, the full Christian, middle and surname, of the person giving notice.

<sup>2</sup> Insert here, the marital status, namely, whether single, widower, widow or divorced.

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Marital Status<sup>3</sup>

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Profession or occupation

---

Date of Birth

---

Sex at birth

---

Age

---

Name of Father

---

Residential address

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Name of ship on which marriage is to be contracted

**APPLICABLE WHERE THE APPLICANT APPLYING FOR A SPECIAL LICENCE INTENDS TO MARRY ANOTHER INTENDED PARTY TO THE MARRIAGE WHO IS AN ADULT**

I give this notice with the assent of the other party named and described herein and I solemnly declare that I believe there is no impediment of consanguinity or affinity or other lawful hindrance to the said marriage.

I also solemnly declare that the required consent has been obtained of all whose consent is necessary to the said marriage, namely:

(Signature)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set and subscribed my hand this \_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

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SIGNATURE

**APPLICABLE WHERE THE APPLICANT APPLYING FOR A SPECIAL LICENCE INTENDS TO MARRY ANOTHER INTENDED PARTY TO THE MARRIAGE WHO IS A MINOR**

I give this notice with the assent of<sup>4</sup>: (1) The parent or parents of the other party to the intended marriage who is a minor, or (2) The mother of the other party to the intended marriage who is a

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<sup>3</sup> Insert here, the marital status, namely, whether single, widower, widow or divorced.

<sup>4</sup> Insert the applicable name or names and authority of person or persons, whose consent is necessary for the intended marriage to be valid pursuant to the provisions of section 9 of the Maritime Marriage Act (Ch. 124A).

minor, or (3) The person or persons to whom the minor and other intended party to the marriage has been committed by order of a court, and I solemnly declare that I believe there is no impediment of consanguinity or affinity or other lawful hindrance to the said marriage.

I also solemnly declare that the required consent has been obtained of all whose consent is necessary to the said marriage, namely:

(Signature)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set and subscribed my hand this \_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

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SIGNATURE

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**FORM III (Rule 7)**  
**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF AN**  
**APPLICATION TO OBTAIN SPECIAL LICENCE**

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

I *[INSERT HERE FULL NAME OF APPLICANT AND INTENDED PARTY TO THE MARRIAGE (“THE APPLICANT”)]* residing at *[INSERT HERE THE RESIDENTIAL AND POSTAL ADDRESSES OF THE APPLICANT]*, *[INSERT HERE THE OCCUPATION OF THE APPLICANT]*, make oath and say as follows:

1. THAT I AM *[INSERT HERE THE AGE OF THE APPLICANT]*, that I was born at *[INSERT HERE THE FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE APPLICANT’S PLACE OF BIRTH AND THE DAY, MONTH AND YEAR OF THE APPLICANT’S BIRTH]*.

2. THAT I WAS BORN TO *[INSERT HERE THE FULL NAMES OF THE APPLICANT’S PARENTS IF THE APPLICANT WAS BORN IN WEDLOCK OR INSERT THE FULL NAME OF THE APPLICANT’S MOTHER, IF THE APPLICANT WAS BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK]*.

3. THAT I SOLEMNLY AND SINCERELY DECLARE THAT I WISH FOR A MARRIAGE TO BE CONTRACTED BETWEEN ME AND *[INSERT THE CHRISTIAN, MIDDLE (IF ANY) AND SURNAME OF THE OTHER PARTY TO WHOM THE APPLICANT WISHES TO MARRY]* ON *[INSERT THE DAY, MONTH AND YEAR UPON WHICH THE APPLICANT INSCRIBES IN THE SUBSTANTIVE APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL LICENCE FOR THE MARRIAGE TO BE CONTRACTED]*.

4. THAT I MAKE THIS AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF MY APPLICATION TO OBTAIN A SPECIAL LICENCE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL OR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

*[IN ALPHABETICAL PARAGRAPHING SEQUENCE, WHERE THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO OR MORE SPECIAL OR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT MAKES THIS AFFIDAVIT, EXPRESSLY ITEMISE THEM HERE].*

5. THAT I CONSCIENTIOUSLY DECLARE THAT THERE IS NO IMPEDIMENT OF CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY OR OTHER LAWFUL HINDRANCE TO THE INTENDED MARRIAGE BETWEEN ME AND *[INSERT HERE, THE FULL NAME OR THE CHRISTIAN, MIDDLE AND SURNAME OF THE OTHER PARTY TO THE INTENDED MARRIAGE]*.

(Ch. 124A).

6. THAT BOTH MYSELF AND *[INSERT THE FULL NAMES OF THE APPLICANT AND THE OTHER PARTY TO THE INTENDED MARRIAGE]* ARE OF FULL AGE, *[OR IF EITHER OF THE PARTIES TO THE INTENDED MARRIAGE IS NOT OF FULL AGE, THAT THE CONSENT TO THE MARRIAGE AS LEGALLY REQUIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 9 OF THE MARITIME MARRIAGE ACT, HAS BEEN OBTAINED]*.

7. THAT I CONSCIENTIOUSLY DECLARE THAT ALL STATEMENTS DEPOSED IN THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF.

SWORN TO AT )  
THIS \_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ )  
20\_\_\_\_ )  
 ) \_\_\_\_\_

INSERT HERE FULL CHRISTIAN, MIDDLE AND SURNAME OF THE APPLICANT]

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

**FORM IV (Rule 8)**  
**REGISTER OF MARITIME MARRIAGE (SECTION 19(1))**

No.	Name of Ship and Official Number	When Married (GMT SMT) Date & Time	Position of Ship (Latitude & Longitude)	Full Name	Marital Status	Age	Profession or Occupation	Residential Address at time of Marriage

After Registrar's Certificate or Special Licence:

Consent by whom given:

This Marriage was \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> in the presence \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup>

Celebrated between us \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> of us \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup>

Contracted before me:

\_\_\_\_\_ Marriage Officer

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>10</sup> Father to sign here

<sup>11</sup> Witness to sign here

**SECOND SCHEDULE (Rule 3)****FEEES FOR SERVICES RENDERED UNDER THE ACT**

S.I. 41/2013.

S.I. 79/2013.

<b>Services rendered under the Act</b>	<b>Fee \$</b>
Application of a Master or Second-in-command of a Bahamian ship to the Registrar-General to obtain a licence to be a marriage officer	\$500
Fee for the Registrar-General furnishing to a Master or Second-in-command of a Bahamian ship a licence to be a marriage officer	\$500
Fee to be paid by the Master or Second-in-command of a Bahamian ship to the Registrar-General in order to renew the licence to be a marriage officer under section 3(2) and 3(3) of the Act	\$750
Fee for the Registrar-General furnishing a duplicate licence to a Master or Second-in-command of a Bahamian ship to be a marriage officer	\$100
Fee to publish notice of intended marriage in two newspapers, published and circulated daily in The Bahamas and these are namely, The Bahama Journal and either The Tribune, The Nassau Guardian	\$250
Fee for the issue of a Certificate for Marriage by the Registrar-General to a party to the intended marriage	\$300
Fee for entering a caveat against the contracting of a marriage	\$50
Application by a party to the intended marriage to the Registrar-General for the grant of a special licence, and the issue of a special licence by the Registrar-General to such party	\$500
Fee for the Registrar-General to furnish a duplicate special licence	\$100
Fee to contract a marriage <i>in articulo mortis</i>	\$300
Fee for a general search, or for a particular entry, in the Register of Maritime Marriages	\$50
Fee for every certified copy of an entry in the Register of Maritime Marriages (excluding a copy required to be provided to the Court pursuant to section 24 of the Maritime Marriage Act (Ch. 124A))	\$50
Fee to issue a Marriage or Provisional Marriage Officer with the Maritime Marriage Log Book	\$200.