

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 2020.

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

ROMM: www.romm.gov.sg

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/lrsyad>.

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.

INFOGRAPHICS

TEMPORARY MEASURES FOR SOLEMNIZATION AND REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES AT A GLANCE

1



FILE NOTICE OF MARRIAGE

- File a notice of marriage on the ROM website
- Complete self-check eligibility for online VD/SD¹ and Solemnization as part of the filing process
- If eligible, select the option for virtual processes and complete filing
- Receive confirmation of VD/SD and Solemnization dates within 3 working days of filing your notice of marriage

FILING COMPLETED

2



UPON CONFIRMATION OF ONLINE VD/SD AND SOLEMNIZATION DATES

- Receive pre-filled VD/SD documents and a video link before appointment date
- On day of appointment, click on the video link to begin VD/SD with the Commissioner of Oaths. Both bride and groom are to prepare the following:
 - Form A (sent by ROM)
 - NRIC
 - Document showing Licensed Solemnizer's consent (if done by a Religious Leader)
 - Copy/ photo of both witnesses' identity document (i.e. NRIC or passport)
 - Other supporting local documents (e.g. divorce certificate, death certificate of ex-spouse)

Note: Only locally-issued documents can be verified virtually. If you have foreign-issued documents, we will arrange for you to come to ROM in person for the verification of these documents (after the Circuit Breaker period), before your solemnisation can proceed

VD/SD COMPLETED

3



UPON COMPLETION OF ONLINE VD/SD PROCESS

- Bride, groom and 2 witnesses will each receive a copy of the unsigned **white** CoM² and solemnization video link after the VD/SD has been completed
- On day of appointment, click on the video link to begin your Virtual Solemnization. All parties to prepare relevant identity documents
- All parties to mail their signed copy of the **white** CoM to ROM using the provided pre-paid envelope by the next day

5



CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE MARRIED!

Bride will receive a coloured marriage certificate from ROM

4



Footnote

¹VD/SD - Verification of Documents and Statutory Declarations²CoM - Certificate of Marriage



ROMM'S TEMPORARY MEASURES

SOLEMNIZATION OF MUSLIM MARRIAGES VIA VIDEO LINK

PLEASE VISIT ROMM WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

01

Couples intending to marry should file an application for marriage at ROMM website. After completing face-to-face session with Kadi/Naib Kadi, couple should contact ROMM for Verification of Documents/Statutory Declaration (VD/SD) appointment and indicate preference for VD/SD via video link. If the use of video link for VD/SD is approved, pre-filled VD/SD documents and the video link will be sent to couple and wali before date of appointment.

02

On VD/SD appointment day, couple and wali should prepare their NRICs, pre-filled VD/SD document and other relevant supporting documents (e.g., divorce certificate, death certificate of ex-spouse) ready and use video link to meet with the Kadi/Naib Kadi. Kadi/Naib Kadi will verify NRICs/identities/documents and conduct VD/SD via the video link.

03

Couple should submit a request for video link solemnization. If approved, couple, wali and 2 witnesses will each receive a copy of unsigned Certificate of Marriage (CoM) and a video link for the solemnization.

04

On solemnization day, couple, wali and 2 witnesses should prepare NRICs and CoMs and use the video link provided. Kadi/Naib Kadi will verify NRICs/identity and solemnize the couple over video link. Couples may also opt to have the wali perform the solemnization over video link, provided that the Kadi/Naib Kadi continues to preside over the video link solemnization. Couple, wali and 2 witnesses to email their signed copy of CoM to Kadi/Naib Kadi.

05

Couple will receive their completed marriage certificate from Kadi/Naib Kadi at a later date.