

**Factsheet on Licensed Solemnisers**

- As of 1 October 2019, there are 1,166 Licensed Solemnisers appointed in Singapore, who partner the Registry of Marriages (ROM) to conduct approximately 65% of all civil marriages in Singapore annually.
- The partnership first started in 1961 with our religious leaders, which has since grown to include respected members of the community such as Justices of the Peace, Grassroots Leaders and Family Life Champions from the People's Association.
- Licensed Solemnisers play an important role in the community beyond the ceremonies that they officiate. They may offer couples relevant advice, tips and resources throughout the solemnisation process. They are also key in ensuring that couples have a meaningful solemnisation experience.

## Frequently Asked Questions on Licensed Solemnisers

### 1. How many Solemnisers are there, who are Justices of the Peace, Religious Leaders as well as Grassroots and Community Leaders?

There are 123 Solemnisers who are Justices of the Peace, 745 Religious Leaders and 298 Solemnisers who are Grassroots and Community Leaders.

### 2. What is the criteria for becoming a Solemniser?

Applications for appointment as a Licensed Solemniser are through nomination by Nominating Bodies, such as Heads of Religious Orders and the People's Association. Eligible persons are usually Justices of the Peace, Religious Leaders and Community Leaders. Applicants must meet the criteria, which include good track record as a community or religious leader, or other positions of influence or leadership.

### 3. What forms of training are available for solemnisers?

ROM organises briefings and provides guidebooks to new Solemnisers so that they are well equipped to carry out solemnisations for couples, in accordance with marriage laws in Singapore.

There are also opportunities for new Solemnisers to observe an actual or re-enactment of a solemnisation session before the issuance of the Solemniser licence, to ensure they are properly guided in the legal process of the registration of a civil marriage.

MSF is also rolling out the **Marital First Responder Training** to equip licensed solemnisers to provide basic support to couples in building healthier and more stable relationships. This is especially relevant to religious organisations as they are typically natural touchpoints that couples turn to for help when they face marital issues. Interested parties may contact MSF to sign up for the training.

Solemnisers can also approach ROM should they require any assistance or need support in their solemnisation services.

## Golden Jubilee Wedding Celebrations 2020

### **About GJWC**

- The GJWC is part of the Registry of Civil Marriages (ROM) and the Registry of Muslim Marriages' (ROMM) efforts to celebrate Civil and Muslim marriages that have lasted for 50 years or more. This event honours couples who exemplify that marriage is a lifelong journey.
- The inaugural event was held in 2018 at the Istana, while the most recent edition was held on 13 April 2019 at Raffles City Convention Centre. For both years, Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore, graced the event.
- As part of the Celebrations, eligible couples will receive a commemorative marriage certificate and renew their commitment to each other at a renewal-of-commitment ceremony.

### **About GJWC 2020**

- ROM and ROMM are co-organising GJWC 2020 on **11 April 2020 (Saturday)** at the Raffles City Convention Centre, and would like to invite members of the public to take part if they are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary or beyond in 2019 or 2020, or to nominate eligible couples.
- Eligible couples, their family members or friends can contact ROM (tel: 6338 7808 or email to [MSF\\_ROM@msf.gov.sg](mailto:MSF_ROM@msf.gov.sg)) or ROMM (tel: 6337 0207 or email to [MCCY\\_ROMM@mccy.gov.sg](mailto:MCCY_ROMM@mccy.gov.sg)).
- Registration is now open until 31 December 2019.

### **Eligibility Criteria for GJWC 2020**

To be eligible to participate in the Golden Jubilee Wedding Celebrations 2020, a couple must meet the following criteria:

- The couple must be married for 50 years or more in 2019 or 2020.
- The couple must not have previously attended past editions of GJWC on 17 March 2018 and 13 April 2019.
- The couple must have had their marriage registered at ROM or ROMM.
- At least one party must be a Singapore Citizen.

In case of overwhelming response, priority will be given to GJ couples who are from the older cohorts.

***Details needed for registration:***

- Both parties' full names
- Date of marriage registration
- Preferred mode and details of contact (email address and/or telephone number)
- Mailing address

## Frequently Asked Questions on GJWC

- 1. Why are we only celebrating couples who have been married for 50 years? I am celebrating my 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. Will my partner and I be able to join in the celebrations?**

The event is organised to celebrate Civil and Muslim marriages that have lasted for 50 years or more. This is to honour couples who have exemplified that marriage is a lifelong journey.

- 2. What is a renewal-of-commitment ceremony? How is it different from a renewal-of-vows ceremony?**

This renewal-of-commitment ceremony involves a couple coming together to re-declare the matrimonial commitments they have made to each other, in the presence of their family and friends. It does not have any fixed form, and is not prescribed by law, race or religion.

- 3. How many commemorative marriage certificates has ROM and ROMM provided over the years?**

This is the fourth time ROM, and the third time ROMM is issuing commemorative marriage certificates.

In December 2016, ROM gave out commemorative marriage certificates to three couples to mark the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first civil marriages registered in Singapore. These couples registered their civil marriages at ROM in September 1961 when marriage registration was first introduced.

Both ROM and ROMM also issued commemorative marriage certifications at the inaugural and second edition of the Golden Jubilee Wedding Celebrations on 17 March 2018 and 13 April 2019 respectively.

### **About the Registry of Marriages (ROM) and Registry of Muslim Marriages (ROMM)**

- The Registry of Marriages (ROM) was set up in 1961 to administer the provisions of the Women's Charter (Cap 353) for the solemnisation and registration of civil marriages.
- The Registry of Muslim Marriages (ROMM) was set up in 1968 to administer the provisions of the Administration of Muslim Law Act (AMLA) (Cap 2) for the solemnisation and registration of Muslim marriages.
- Since the set-up of the Registries of Marriages up until 2018, about 1.3 million civil and Muslim marriages have been registered.
- Various initiatives have been organised in recent years to enhance the overall experience of soon-to-wed couples and to celebrate marriages in Singapore. These initiatives include:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Initiatives</b>
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of ROM premises at Canning Rise with parts of Fort Canning Park for couples to celebrate their nuptials and create memories after their wedding at the ROM premises.</li> </ul>
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of two-hour Introductory Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Programme (PREP) at ROM premises every weekday for soon-to-wed couples.</li> </ul>
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commemorative SG50 marriage certificate holder for residents who married during the year.</li> <li>• Exhibition at ROM on wedding customs and rituals of the different races in Singapore.</li> </ul>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrating 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Civil Marriages in Singapore, to commemorate the enactment of the Women's Charter in 1961.</li> </ul>
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inaugural Golden Jubilee Wedding Celebrations to celebrate couples who had been married for 50 years in 2017.</li> </ul>
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second edition of Golden Jubilee Wedding Celebrations to celebrate couples who had been married for 50 years in 2018.</li> </ul>