

Frequently Asked Questions

Pre-marriage LTVP Assessment (PMLA)

- 1. Is the pre-marriage LTVP assessment (PMLA) mandatory? What consequences will there be if I do not go through the assessment?**
 - Couples are strongly encouraged to undergo the PMLA before marriage, as it will provide them with greater clarity on their eligibility for LTVP before marriage, so that they can better plan for their future. It will also help prospective spouses, particularly those who may not have had the benefit of a long relationship, to have sufficient pertinent information about each other before their marriage.
 - LTVP applications of couples who had undergone the PMLA will be processed in a shorter time because they had already submitted their information earlier. LTVP applications from couples who did not complete the PMLA may be subject to longer processing times.

- 2. If I do not go through the PMLA, can I still get married?**
 - Yes, your prospective spouse and you can still get married. However, you are encouraged to undergo PMLA before marriage as it helps your prospective spouse and yourself have greater clarity and better plan for their future.

- 3. If I get married without applying for LTVP, what will happen to me?**
 - You will not be able to reside long term in Singapore unless you have a valid work pass or other long-term immigration facilities. You may also visit Singapore, subject to prevailing entry requirements.

- 4. I've gone through the Pre-Marriage LTVP Assessment (PMLA) and received the Letter of LTVP Eligibility (LLE). Does that mean I'll definitely be granted LTVP later?**
 - The LLE does not constitute the approval of an LTVP.
 - The pre-marriage LTVP assessment gives an indication of the non-resident's eligibility for LTVP based on the information and current circumstances provided by both parties.
 - Each application for LTVP is still considered on its own merits.
 - Persons issued with the LLE will generally be granted an LTVP on application if their circumstances remain unchanged.

- 5. What was the LTVP processing time before the revisions to the LTVP process? Why is the processing time longer now?**
 - There is no change to the processing time for LTVP applications, which remains at up to six weeks, for couples who have gone through the pre-marriage LTVP assessment.
 - Longer processing times may apply to couples who did not undergo the Pre Marriage LTVP assessment (PMLA) as their information was not submitted earlier.

- 6. What if I cannot complete the MSF programmes before the In-Principle Approval (IPA) for my LTVP expires?**
 - You are strongly encouraged to complete the MSF programmes before the In-Principle Approval (IPA) for your LTVP expires.
 - The programmes are provided frequently to ensure that you have ample opportunities to complete the programmes before your IPA expires.
 - Should you be unable to complete the MSF programmes in time, your LTVP application would be withdrawn and you would have to put in a fresh LTVP application.

- 7. Why is there a need for the Marriage Preparation Programme (MPP)? What is covered in the MPP?**
 - MSF encourages all marrying couples to attend marriage preparation programmes.
 - As transnational couples may face additional challenges due to cultural differences, they are strongly encouraged to attend the MPP. The programme will help couples from different cultural backgrounds to better understand and communicate with each other so that they can better manage cross-cultural differences and build the foundation for a strong marriage.
 - It will focus on key issues such as roles and expectations, communication and ways of managing conflict, with a cross-cultural perspective.

- 8. If I do not attend the Marriage Preparation Programme (MPP), does that mean I will not be allowed to marry?**
 - No, attendance of MPP is not a requirement for you to get married.
 - Nonetheless, all Singapore Citizen – foreigner (SC-foreigner) couples (i.e. couples where the SC's spouse is neither an SC nor a Permanent Resident) are strongly encouraged to attend the MPP so that couples may be better prepared for marriage.

- 9. What should I do if I am unable to attend the Marriage Preparation Programme (MPP) session allocated?**
 - You are strongly encouraged to adhere to the MPP and Verification of Documents and Statutory Declaration (VD/SD) slots allocated.
 - If you are unable to attend both the MPP and VD/SD slot allocated, you may reschedule your VD/SD by contacting ROM. The MPP will be reallocated accordingly. However, if you are unable to attend only the MPP, please contact the relevant Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs) to sign up. Contact details of these VWOs are available on the MSF website < <http://www.msf.gov.sg> >. Rescheduling of MPP is subject to availability.

- 10. Why is the Marriage Preparation Programme (MPP) for Muslim marriages different from and longer than for civil marriages?**
 - Currently, the majority of Malay/ Muslim couples attend a two-day MPP, which also covers socio-religious elements, in preparation for marriage under the Administration of Muslim Law Act (AMLA), which governs Muslim marriages.
 - This MPP is based on an experiential learning format, hence it stretches over a longer duration.

- 11. Can I attend other marriage preparation programmes of my choice, e.g. church-based ones?**
 - The marriage preparation programmes recommended by MSF have been specially tailored to meet the needs of transnational couples and are fully subsidised. You can still attend other marriage preparation programmes.
- 12. I have attended a marriage preparation programme with my previous spouse. Do I still need to attend the Marriage Preparation Programme (MPP)?**
 - Yes, you are strongly encouraged to attend this MPP with your current spouse as the circumstances of every marriage are unique.
- 13. Do I need to hire an interpreter to attend the Marriage Preparation Programme (MPP) with me?**
 - Language support will be provided through buddies and the programme materials, which will be made available in six languages (English, Mandarin, Bahasa Melayu, Tamil, Vietnamese & Thai).
- 14. Why is there a need for the Marriage Support Programme (MSP)? What is covered in the MSP?**
 - The MSP is a follow-up programme to the MPP to strengthen couples' mutual understanding of and ability to manage cross-cultural differences so as to build the foundation for a strong marriage.
 - In addition to that, it provides information on what living in Singapore would be like and what the available community resources are.
- 15. Where can I find out more about the Marriage Support Programme (MSP)? How can I sign up for MSP?**
 - The MSF website < <http://www.msf.gov.sg> > has information on MSP, including contact details of agencies to sign up for MSP. You are strongly encouraged to sign up for MSP at your MPP session.
- 16. I am a foreigner and I've worked in Singapore for many years before getting married. Should I still attend the Marriage Support Programme (MSP)? Would the MSP still be meaningful for me?**
 - The MSP is for you and your Singapore Citizen (SC) spouse.
 - Both of you should attend the programme together as it seeks to strengthen mutual understanding of cross-cultural differences issues so as to build the foundation for a strong marriage. There will be activities to help the SC spouse appreciate his/her role in supporting the foreign spouse, as well as to help the foreign spouse better settle down in Singapore.
- 17. Do I need to hire an interpreter to attend the Marriage Support Programme (MSP) with me?**
 - Language support will be provided through buddies and the programme materials, which will be made available in six languages (English, Mandarin, Bahasa Melayu, Tamil, Vietnamese & Thai).
- 18. Who are these buddies and how will they be selected?**
 - These buddies are volunteers selected and trained by agencies running the Marriage Preparation Programme (MPP) and Marriage Support Programme (MSP).

- 19. What are the criteria or characteristics that MSF has in mind for someone to be a buddy?**
- The buddy will have to be married for at least two years, and living in Singapore for at least three years. He/ She should be able to converse in English or Chinese, and preferably a language that facilitates outreach to the foreign spouse.
 - Any Singapore Citizen (SC), Permanent Resident (PR) and non-resident who meets the above criteria can apply to be a buddy.
- 20. Will buddies come from the same nationality as the foreign spouses to help understand the cross-cultural aspects? Will the buddies be matched to the spouses based on nationality?**
- Buddies are matched by availability. Where possible, buddies will be matched according to nationality.
- 21. How can I get in touch with these buddies?**
- Buddies will be present at the Marriage Preparation Programme (MPP) and Marriage Support Programme (MSP) to link up with couples and provide information on available community resources.
- 22. Can I get assistance from them even without going through the Marriage Preparation Programme (MPP) or Marriage Support Programme (MSP)?**
- The role of buddies is to provide follow-up support to couples who have gone through the programmes. Couples will be able to meet their buddies at the MPP and MSP.