

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated on 5 Mar 2018

1. Who will be affected by the amendments to the Administration of Muslim Law Act (AMLA) to strengthen families?

The amendments will affect couples marrying under the AMLA if at least one of them is below 21 years old (couples who are minors).

Couples who are minors will be required to complete a mandatory marriage preparation programme together before they apply for marriage. They must also obtain the consent of the parents or guardians of the party who is below 21 years old before they apply for marriage. This consent is separate from the consent of the bride's wali, and does not supersede the wali's consent. If consent has not been obtained, couples will not be able to proceed with the application.

Note: "wali" means the lawful guardian according to the Muslim law for purposes of marriage of a woman who is to be married". Source: Administration of Muslim Law Act, Section 2 (Interpretation).

2. What is the mandatory marriage preparation programme for minor couples?

The Mandatory Marriage Preparation Programme is a customised programme for couples who are minors (i.e. where at least one of them is below 21 years of age). It comprises:

- **Premarital consultations** for couples who are minors, to better understand, clarify and address any concerns that they and their families may have about the marriage and forming a family. Parents' involvement in these sessions is highly encouraged. The couples and their families will be introduced to the marriage preparation programme as well as other programmes and services provided by the INSPIRASI Hubs to support couples on their marital journey.
- **Marriage Education Workshops** enable couples to learn essential skills and knowledge to build a strong and stable marriage and family. Key topics include management of household finances, communication and conflict resolution. In addition, parents of the minor couple are highly encouraged to attend parent workshops on providing functional and emotional support for the minor couples.

Through the programme, couples who are minors would be able to make informed decisions about the marriage and be better prepared for the adjustments and challenges that they will face in the next stage of their journey.

Workshops for parents/guardians are also provided as they play an important role in supporting the couple who are minors, especially in the early years of their marriage.

3. If the bride and groom are below 21 years, and the bride has obtained consent from her Wali, can they proceed with their marriage application?

If the bride and groom are below 21 years, parents'/guardians' consent must be obtained as well for both parties.

4. When will the changes take effect?

The changes will affect couples who are minors applying for marriage from 1 October 2018 onwards.

5. How will the amendments change the marriage application process for minor couples?

Once the changes are implemented, affected couples will have to complete the mandatory marriage preparation programme together before they make an application for marriage. This is similar to the approach adopted for marriage of minor couples under the Women's Charter.

Couples can contact and register for the programme directly with the appointed service providers, INSPIRASI Hubs. Those who do not comply with the requirement will not be able to proceed with their application.

The parents/guardians of the minor will also need to consent to the marriage. If consent of any parent/guardian of the minor is not obtained, the couple will not be able to proceed with the application for marriage.

The changes will take effect from 1 October 2018 onwards.

For information on the marriage preparation programme, couples can contact the following Hubs:

INSPIRASI PPIS

Blk 322 Bukit Batok St 33 #01-16
Singapore 650322
Tel: 6561 1049
Email: inspirasi@ppis.sg
Office Hours :
Monday – Friday: 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday : By Appointment only

INSPIRASI @ AMP

1 Pasir Ris Drive 4 #05-11
Singapore 519457
Tel: 6416 3960 or 6416 3961
Email: helpliners@amp.org.sg
Office Hours :
Monday – Friday: 9 am to 6 pm

6. If a couple who are minors has attended marriage preparation programme conducted by different service providers, are they allowed to use the course certificate when they file for application for solemnisation of the marriage?

All couples who are minors are required to attend a marriage preparation programme provided by the **appointed** service providers - INSPIRASI Hubs. Certificates obtained from other providers will not be accepted. Couples who are unable to provide a valid certificate from the **appointed** service providers, will not be able to proceed with their application.
