

PERSONS BY WHOM SIGNATURES TO CONSENT MUST BE WITNESSED

The person(s) who are giving consent should sign the consent form in the presence of another person who should also sign the consent form confirming that he or she has witnessed the signature(s) of the person(s) giving consent.

If the signatures to the consents are being witnessed, the person witnessing the signatures should be within the:-

United Kingdom

- Persons on the active list of the Permanent Civil Service of the Crown who are of Executive rank or higher.
- Persons authorised to issue Schedules or Licences for marriages.
- Members of a Police Service not below the rank of Sergeant.
- Magistrates, or Justices of the Peace.
- Commissioner for Oaths (eg, practising solicitors).
- Ministers of Religion.
- Medical Practitioners.

British Commonwealth

- Magistrates or Justices of the Peace.
- Peace Commissioners.
- Commissioners for Oaths.
- Ministers of Religion.
- Medical Practitioners.

Foreign Countries

- British Diplomatic or Consular Officers empowered by law to administer Oaths.
- Notaries Public or other persons competent by the law of the country to administer Oaths.

Other than Foreign Countries

- Officers of her Majesty’s Naval, Military or Air Force on the active or half pay or Pensions Lists.
- Masters of British Merchant Navy Vessels.

Form of Consent to the Marriage of a Young Person

ARTICLE 22 OF THE MARRIAGE (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2003

Intended Marriage of.....

Address

With (name of other party)

Address

I (a)..... being the (b).....

and I (a).....being the (b).....

of the above named..... a young person, aged.....years,

and being the persons whose consent to hMarriage is required by the Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 do hereby give consent to the above Marriage.

Witness my hand thisday of.....2.....

Signature of person giving consent.....

Address

Witness to the above Signature

Qualification

Address

Witness my hand thisday of.....2.....

Signature of person giving consent.....

Address

Witness to the above Signature

Qualification

Address

(a) Insert Name in full, (b) Insert “Father”, “Mother” or “Guardian” or where a residence order is in force or was in force immediately before the young person reached the age of sixteen “the person with whom the young person lives or lived” as the case may be.

TheBoard/Trust, being the designated Health and Social Services Trust/ Board in the care order dated.....

hereby consents to the intended marriage as described above.

Signedon behalf of the above Trust/Board this.....day of.....2.....

Qualification

In the present of..... signaturename and surname

Qualification

Where only one parent gives consent - please state reason below:-

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Registrar's Signature,.....Date.....

MARRIAGES (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2003

CONSENT TO THE MARRIAGE OF A YOUNG PERSON OVER SIXTEEN AND UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE

Consent can only be given to the marriage of a young person under eighteen years of age by the person(s) qualified under the Marriages (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.

Where one parent gives consent and the other is deceased, or where a parent no longer has authority, (eg, by reason of desertion, etc). The facts should be briefly indicated by means of a brief note on page 4. It should be noted that the absence of one parent is not in itself sufficient grounds for dispensing with his or her consent.

PERSON WHOSE CONSENT IS REQUIRED

The consent form should be completed by:-

- each parent or guardian who has parental responsibility;
- if a Residence Order is in force the consent form should be completed by the person with whom the young person lives;
- where a Care Order is in force, the consent form should be completed by the appropriate Health and Social Services Board or Trust.

APPLICATIONS TO COUNTY COURT* TO DISPENSE WITH CONSENT (Article 23 of the Marriages (NI) Order 2003)

A County Court may, on application, make an order dispensing with consent if the court is satisfied that the proposed marriage is in the best interests of the minor; and

- (a) both parents are dead and there is no duly appointed guardian; or
- (b) a person whose consent is required unreasonably withholds it or cannot be found and at least one other qualified person has consented; or
- (c) the consent of one person only is required and that person cannot be found or is suffering from mental illness or mental handicap within the meaning of the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986; or
- (d) there is uncertainty as to whose consent is required.

In such cases, marriages of minors should not be solemnized without an Order of the Court.

* The Court to which application may be made is the County Court acting for the civil bill division in which the minor has last resided for a period exceeding three months.