

## ROMM'S TEMPORARY MEASURES

# SOLEMNIZATION OF MUSLIM MARRIAGES VIA VIDEO LINK

PLEASE VISIT ROMM WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

01

File application for marriage at ROMM website. After completing face-to-face session with Kadi/Naib Kadi, contact ROMM for Verification of Documents/Statutory Declaration (VD/SD) appointment and indicate preference for VD/SD via video link. For approved video link VDSD, pre-filled VD/SD documents will be sent to couple and wali with video link provided before date of appointment.

02

On VD/SD appointment date, couple and wali to prepare NRICs, pre-filled VDSD document and other relevant supporting documents (e.g., divorce certificate, death certificate of ex spouse) and click on the video link. Kadi/Naib Kadi to verify NRICs/identities/documents and conduct VD/SD online.

03

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

04

On solemnization date, couple, wali and 2 witnesses to prepare NRICs and CoMs and click on the video link to begin process of solemnization via video link. Kadi/Naib Kadi to verify NRICs/identity. Wali may perform the solemnization.

05

Couple, wali and 2 witnesses to email their signed copy of CoM to Kadi/Naib Kadi. Couple will receive their marriage certificate from Kadi/Naib Kadi at a later date.



## VIDEO LINK SOLEMNIZATION

## GUIDELINES FOR COUPLES, WALI & WITNESSES

Temporary measure during COVID-19  
enhanced Circuit Breaker period

Visit [www.romm.gov.sg](http://www.romm.gov.sg) for more details

	Pre-solemnization	Day of solemnization
<b>1</b>	Application for marriage at ROMM website successful.	Ensure that devices and facilities are working. Video and sound are clear.
<b>2</b>	Verification of documents and statutory declaration successful.	Show original NRIC or passport to your Kadi/Naib Kadi for verification.
<b>3</b>	Appeal for video link solemnization successful.	Your Kadi/Naib Kadi will seek confirmation from the bride that she is entering the marriage of her own free will.
<b>4</b>	Your Kadi/Naib Kadi will email to you the video link.	Solemnization proper. If wali is solemnizing, please ensure that the Kadi/Naib Kadi can see him.
<b>5</b>	Your Kadi/Naib Kadi will check with you on your devices & facilities.	Sign the Register of Marriage & Certificate of Marriage. Must be seen by the Kadi/Naib Kadi.
<b>6</b>	Your Kadi/Naib Kadi will check with you on your physical presence in Singapore.	Email copy of the signed Register of Marriage & Certificate of Marriage immediately to the Kadi/Naib Kadi.
<b>7</b>	Your Kadi/Naib Kadi will email to you unsigned copy of the Register of Marriage & copy of Marriage Certificate	

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES  
ON VIDEO LINK SOLEMNISATION

- 1) The option for video link solemnisation is for the registration and solemnisation of Muslim marriages during the COVID-19 period.
- 2) ROMM 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.
- 3) Only couple where one party is a Singapore Citizen/Permanent Resident is eligible for video link solemnisation.
- 4) Couple and wali must have completed Verification of Documents/Statutory Declaration at ROMM and application for marriage has been approved by Kadi/Naib Kadi.
- 5) Couple, wali and 2 witnesses must be physically present in Singapore for the video link solemnisation. This video link solemnisation must be carried out within Singapore's marriage law and jurisdiction.
- 6) Couple, wali and 2 witnesses must have the devices and facilities for the video link solemnisation. They must ensure the devices and facilities are in good condition. ROMM may impose any conditions on the remote communication technology used by the couple, wali and 2 witnesses.
- 7) Couple, wali and 2 witnesses must be at their own residence, if they are not of the same household. They can all be in different physical locations, as long as they are all in Singapore. This is in line with the objective of enabling video link solemnisation, such that marriages can happen while ensuring social distancing.
- 8) ROMM may allow limited number of family members and friends to join the solemnization through video link, so long as the video link is stable and no possible disruptions to the video link solemnisation.
- 9) Couple wishing to opt for video link solemnisation may email the Registrar, ROMM at [mccy\\_romm@mccy.gov.sg](mailto:mccy_romm@mccy.gov.sg) for their request to be considered.
- 10) The Registrar has the full discretion to decide on applications that may be allowed the option to use the video link process for solemnisation. In cases where the couples and relevant parties' identities cannot be ascertained on the day of the video link solemnisation, the Registrars will also have the discretion disallow the video link process for solemnisation to proceed.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. When will the video link solemnizations be allowed to take place?**

ROM and ROMM are aiming to implement the provisions in the Act in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of May 2020. More details, including the start date, will be announced later.

### **2. What are the eligibility criteria for video link solemnization?**

When the Act is in force, marrying couples, where at least one party is a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident will be eligible for video link solemnization after they have completed the verification of documents and statutory declaration (VD/SD) with ROMM. Video link solemnization is only available for couples with Singapore-issued documents, as ROMM is not able to verify foreign documents virtually. In addition, the couple, their witnesses, and the *wali* (for Muslim marriages) must also be physically in Singapore during the solemnisation.

### **3. How will video link solemnizations be done? Where can I go to find out more?**

You may refer to the Guidelines on Solemnisation via Video Link on ROMM website ([www.romm.gov.sg](http://www.romm.gov.sg)) for more details.

### **4. Will I be eligible for video link solemnization if I had postponed my wedding because of earlier restrictions on social gathering sizes?**

If you have met the eligibility criteria for video link solemnization and would like to proceed with your solemnization, you will need to write in to ROMM at [mccy\\_romm@mccy.gov.sg](mailto:mccy_romm@mccy.gov.sg) to inform us of your request.

### **5. Why are only couples with Singapore-issued documents eligible for video link solemnization?**

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 virtually. 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.

### **6. Can the bride, groom, witnesses and wali (for Muslim marriages) be in different physical locations in Singapore for the video link proceedings?**

Yes. In line with the safe distancing measures, people from different households should not gather for the solemnization. Video link processes are to enable marriage solemnizations to take place in a safe manner. However, the bride, groom, witnesses, and wali (for Muslim marriages) can also be in the same location if they belong to the same household.

**7. Will friends and families of the couple be able to join in the video link solemnization to observe and celebrate with the couple?**

Friends and families of the couple can do so, but via remote means. 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.

**8. For Muslims, will the use of virtual 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 via video link are permitted under Islamic law.

The Office of the Mufti has clarified that using virtual 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/Irsyad>.

For the video link solemnisation, 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

**9. After completing the video link verification of documents and making the statutory declaration, 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](http://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19) for updates on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore.

**10. What are the 'exceptional circumstances' under which ROMM will allow in-person solemnizations to proceed on appeal?**

Although we strongly discourage in-person solemnizations during the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognise that there may be a need for exceptions on compassionate grounds. The Registrar of ROMM will consider appeals on a case-by-case basis and consider the circumstances of the applicants. For example, it may include accommodating situations where one half of the couple or a close family member of the couple is critically ill.

**11. Why do the bride, groom, witnesses and wali have to be in Singapore for the proceedings through video link?**

Parties who are physically in other jurisdictions may be subject to that jurisdiction's marriage laws, and this may have an impact on the validity of the marriage.

**12. Will couples still be able to choose their solemnizer for solemnization through video link?**

Couples can continue to opt for their preferred Kadi or Naib Kadi. Under the Bersamamu programme, our Kadi and Naib Kadi have started to use video link to engage couples, as an alternative to in-person face-to-face sessions, before their marriage. This video link arrangement will be extended to eligible couples who wish to register their marriages in this manner.

**13. How can the solemnizer ascertain the identities of the parties, if the proceedings are conducted remotely?**

As with the current process, the couple, the witnesses (and the wali for Muslim marriages) will be required to provide ROMM with their personal particulars when filing the notice of marriage. Prior to the solemnization through video link, Commissioner for Oaths (CFOs) from ROMM will verify the documents submitted by the couple. This can be done through video link, for those who have Singapore government-issued documents, including identity documents and other supporting documents, like divorce certificates or the death certificate of their ex-spouse. For those with foreign documents, the party will need to come down to ROMM for the CFO to verify their authenticity. During the circuit breaker period, only urgent cases with extenuating circumstances will be considered.

During the proceedings via video link, the solemnizer, Kadi, or Naib Kadi will check the identification information provided against the persons appearing before them on the live video link. This will include having the persons showing their identification documents on screen for the solemnizer, Kadi or Naib Kadi to do a visual check.

If there is any doubt about the identity of the parties, the solemnizer, Kadi or Naib Kadi will impose further checks, and the Registrar may deny the use of the marriage process via video link.

**14. How will the groom give the mas kahwin (bride price) to the bride's family?**

If the *mas kahwin* lends itself to a digital transfer (e.g. cash), the gifting be made on the spot, during the proceedings through video link. However, if the *mas kahwin* cannot be transferred digitally, the Kadi or Naib Kadi will request that the groom show it to all parties over the live video link and present it at a later date. Deferment of the giving of *mas kahwin* will not affect the validity of the marriage.