

Provided always that in the column of the said Schedule headed "Age" it shall be lawful to enter either "Full age" or "Minor," as the case may be.

Every such register shall be signed by such Officiating Minister or Registrar, as the case may be, and by the persons married, and by two witnesses, and every entry shall be made from page to page in order from the beginning to the end of such book.

Signatures to register.

37. If any Officiating Minister shall be called upon to solemnise a marriage at a place distant from that at which his register-book is usually kept, it shall be lawful for him to enter such marriage in a blank form instead of in the register-book, and every such form shall be signed at the time of the solemnisation of the marriage by such Officiating Minister, by the persons married, and by the witnesses; and, on his return to the place at which his register-book is kept, such Officiating Minister shall forthwith copy such entry accurately and in full into the said register-book, with a note certifying under his hand that he has made a true copy of the original record, and such original record shall be carefully preserved by him for production if required.

Registration of marriages in a blank form under certain circumstances.

1880, No. 21, sec. 36

38. Every Officiating Minister or Registrar by whom any marriage is solemnised who shall neglect to register the same shall forfeit and pay a penalty of fifty pounds, to be recovered in a summary way.

Penalty for not registering.

Ibid, sec. 37

39. The marriage register-books shall be safely kept by the Officiating Ministers and Registrars respectively; and every Officiating Minister by whom or Registrar before whom any marriage has been solemnised, or the Officiating Minister in whose charge the marriage register-book is usually kept, shall, in the months of July, October, January, and April, respectively, make and transmit to the Registrar-General a true copy, certified by such Officiating Minister or Registrar under his hand, of all the entries of marriages in the register-books kept by him since the last return, and if there shall be no marriage entered therein since the last return he shall certify the fact under his hand.

Copies of register to be forwarded to Registrar-General.

Ibid, sec. 38

Every Officiating Minister or Registrar who shall refuse or neglect to make and transmit such return or certificate within the several times herein specified shall be liable for every such offence to forfeit a sum not exceeding ten pounds, to be recovered in a summary way.

Penalty on failure.

40. The Registrar-General shall cause indexes to be made of the certified copies of entries of marriages forwarded to him, and shall permit any person demanding to do so to search any such index, and to have a copy, certified under the Registrar-General's hand, of any record of any marriage the particulars of which have been duly forwarded to the Registrar-General by the Officiating Minister or Registrar by whom such marriage was solemnised or registered, as may be authorised by the Acts for regulating marriages which may be in force in the colony.

Registrar-General to keep indexes.

Ibid, sec. 39

Searches, extracts, &c.

Certified copies of marriage returns made or given by the Registrar-General, and purporting to be signed by him, shall be received as *prima facie* evidence in any Court of justice within the colony of the fact of the marriage to which it relates having been solemnised.

Certified copy of entries to be received as evidence.