

Questionnaire: Marriage and Family

1. From a legal perspective, what types of marriage celebrations are legally binding (or are foreseen) in your country?
 - A) It is compulsory to perform a civil marriage.
 - B) It is possible to perform a marriage according to the rites of a religion, which has the same legal validity of a civil marriage.
 - C) It is possible to perform a religious marriage according to the rites of a religion, which has the same legal validity of a civil marriage if certain conditions established by state law are respected.
- 1.1. If the answer to question 1 is A), is it compulsory to celebrate a civil marriage before the marriage celebrated according to the rites of a religion?
- 1.2. If the answer to question 1 is B) or C), can these marriages be performed by the following RMs?
2. If the answer to question 1 is B) or C), do ministers of worship need a state authorization to perform the marriage?
 - 2.1. If the answer to question 2 is yes, what are the RMs whose ministers of worship require a state authorization?
3. If the answer to question 1 is C), do these conditions prevent the celebration of
 - A) a polygamous marriage?
 - B) a marriage between individuals who have reached marriageable age according to their religion but are underage based on state law?
 - C) a gender-neutral marriage?
4. If the answer to question 1 is B) or C), what is the legal system in force concerning the decree of dissolution/annulment of a religious marriage with civil effects?
 - A) The decree can be issued only by the state authority.
 - B) The decree can be issued only by the RM authority.
 - C) The decree can be issued by the RM authority, but must be validated by the state authority in order to have legal effects also for the state.
5. How is inheritance regulated in your country?
 - A) It is regulated by state law independently from the religious affiliation of the interested party.
 - B) It is regulated by state law(s) according to the religious affiliation of the interested party.
 - C) The interested party can decide whether inheritance is to be regulated under A) or B).
- 5.1. If the answer to question 5 is A), are there instances when the religious rules concerning inheritance are prevented from acquiring validity in the state legal system?
6. How is dowry regulated in your country?
 - A) It is regulated by state law.
 - B) It is regulated by religious law.
 - C) The interested party can decide whether dowry is to be regulated by state law or religious law.
 - D) None of the above.
- 6.1. If the answer to question 6 is A), are there instances when state law prevents religious rules concerning dowry from being implemented in the state legal system?
7. Becoming part of a religious community is frequently characterized by the celebration of rites (e.g. baptism, circumcision, etc.). Does state law place any obstacle to performing the rites of the following RMs?
8. Is religion a relevant element when courts choose the spouse to whom children are to be entrusted in case of dissolution of marriage?

8.1. If the answer to question 8 is yes, does case law show some bias in favour or against the following RMs?

9. RMs may have some rules concerning medical treatments that are to be respected by their members. Are parents belonging to an RM entitled to have these rules respected by the public healthcare institutions where their children are treated?

10. Is religion a relevant element when courts have to make decisions regarding a child's adoptive parents?