

	Civil marriages	Civil unions	Customary marriages
Legislation	Concluded in terms of the Marriage Act 25 of 1961	Concluded in terms of the Civil Union Act 17 of 2006	Concluded in terms of customary law. Recognition of Customary Marriages Act 120 of 1998.
Consent	Both parents or the guardian of the minor must consent to the civil marriage of a minor. Girls between the ages of 12 and 15, and boys between the ages of 14 and 18 cannot enter into a civil marriage without the written consent of the Minister of Home Affairs as well as the consent of his/her parent(s) or guardian. Where consent from the Minister of Home Affairs was required, but not obtained, the minor's marriage will be null and void.	Restricted to persons older than 18 years. A minor cannot enter into a civil union – not even with the assistance of his or her parents or guardian.	Both spouses must be over the age of puberty to conclude a customary marriage. Both parties must consent to enter into a customary marriage. If a spouse is a minor his or her parents or guardian must consent to the marriage. A minor needs the written consent of the Minister of Home Affairs or a duly authorised officer in the public service, as well as parental consent, to enter into a customary marriage.
Minority status	A minor can acquire majority status by entering into a civil marriage.	A minor cannot acquire majority status by entering into a civil union.	A minor can acquire majority status by entering into a customary marriage.
Nature	Monogamous	Monogamous	Allows polygyny

Parties	Couples of the opposite sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same sex couples • Couples of the opposite sex 	Couples of the opposite sex.

AFRIKAANS

	Siviele huwelik	Siviele verbinteniss	Gebruiklike huwelik
Wetgewing	Gesluit ingevolge die Huwelikswet 25 van 1961	Gesluit ingevolge die <i>Civil Union Act</i> 17 van 2006	Gesluit ingevolge die wet op Erkenning van Gebruiklike Huwelike 120 van 1998
Toestemming	<p>Beide ouers of die wettige voog moet toestem tot die siviele huwelik van 'n minderjarige.</p> <p>Meisies tussen die ouderdomme van 12 en 15, en seuns tussen die ouderdomme van 14 en 18, het benewens ouerlike toestemming of toestemming van sy of haar voog , ook die toestemming van skriftelike toestemming van die Minister van Binnelandse Sake</p>	<p>Beperk tot persone ouer as 18 jaar. 'n Minderjarige kan nie 'n siviele verbintenis sluit nie – selfs nie met die bystand van sy of haar ouers of voog nie.</p>	<p>Beide partye moet oor puberteitsouderdom wees om 'n gebruiklike huwelik te sluit. Beide partye moet toestemming gee om 'n gebruiklike huwelik te sluit. Indien 'n party minderjarig is, moet sy of haar ouers of voog toestemming gee dat hulle in die huwelik mag tree. 'n Minderjarige het, benewens ouerlike toestemming, ook die skriftelike toestemming van</p>

	nodig om 'n siviele huwelik te sluit. In 'n geval waar die toestemming van die Minister van Binnelandse Sake vereis was, maar nie verkry is nie, sal die minderjarige se huwelik sal nietig wees.		die Minister van Binnelandse Sake, of 'n amptenaar in die staatsdiens wat behoorlik daartoe gemagtig is, nodig om 'n siviele huwelik te sluit.
Status van minderjarige	'n Minderjarige kan die status van 'n meerderjarige verkry deur 'n siviele huwelik te sluit.	'n Minderjarige kan nie die status van 'n meerderjarige kry deur 'n siviele verbintenis te sluit nie.	'n Minderjarige kan die status van 'n meerderjarige kry deur 'n gebruikelike huwelik te sluit.
Aard	Monogaam	Monogaam	Laat poliginie toe.