

**NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
44<sup>TH</sup> CONSTITUTIONAL REGULAR SESSION, 2023**



Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

**DOMESTIC RELATIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2023**

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**DOMESTIC RELATIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2023**

**AN ACT** to amend §106 of the Domestic Relations Act, 26 MIRC Ch. 1, to expressly provide that the High Court may confirm customary marriages, as well as annulments, divorces, and adoptions, to confirm the validity thereof and to avoid serious embarrassment to or affect the rights of the parties or their children.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

**§101. Short title.**

This Act may be cited as the Domestic Relations (Amendment) Act, 2023.

**§102. Amendment.**

1. §106 of the Domestic Relations Act, 26 MIRC Ch. 1, are amended to read as follows:

**§106. Same; confirmation in accordance with recognized custom.**

When a marriage, annulment, divorce, or adoption has been effected in the Republic in accordance with recognized custom, to confirm and the validity thereof is questioned or disputed by anyone in such a manner as to cause and to avoid serious embarrassment to or affect the property rights of any of the parties or their children, any party thereto or any of his or her children may bring a petition in the High Court for a decree confirming the marriage, annulment, divorce, or adoption effected in accordance with recognized custom. If (after notice to all parties still living, and after a hearing) the Court is satisfied that the marriage, annulment, divorce, or adoption alleged is valid in accordance with recognized custom in the Republic, the High Court

shall enter a decree confirming the marriage, annulment, divorce, or adoption and may include in this decree the date it finds the marriage, annulment, divorce, or adoption was absolute, subject to appeal within 30 days of the date of the decree.

**§103. Effective Date.**

This Act shall take effect on the date of certification in accordance with Article IV, Section 21 of the Constitution.

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**CERTIFICATE**

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**I hereby certify:**

1. That Nitijela Bill No: 74 was passed by the Nitijela of the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023; and
2. That I am satisfied that Nitijela Bill No: 74 was passed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Rules of Procedures of the Nitijela.

I hereby place my signature before the Clerk this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.



**Kenneth A. Kedi**  
Speaker  
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

**Attest:**



**Morean S. Watak**  
Clerk  
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands