

**Bills Committee on
Marriage (Introduction of Civil Celebrants of Marriages and
General Amendments) Bill**

**List of outstanding issues raised at previous meetings
(position as at 20 October 2005)**

Date of meeting	Administration's response [LC Paper No.]
21 June 2005	
(a) the Administration to provide the draft Code of Practice for civil celebrants of marriages, when available.	
4 October 2005	
(a) the Administration to provide a summary of all the offences and the level of penalty in the Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181); and	CB(2) 108/05-06(02)
(b) the Administration to consider whether a person should be guilty of an offence under section 29 for marrying any other person to a person under 21 years of age when the consent required under section 14 has not been "produced", or has not been "obtained".	
<u>Drafting issues</u>	
(c) the Administration to add "s" after "section" in the new section 2(2);	
(d) the Administration to consider the need for the reference in the new section 2(2) to general notice in consultation with the legal adviser to the Bills Committee;	
(e) the Administration to achieve consistency of drafting style for the subsections (1)(a) and (3)(a) under the new section 5D;	
(f) the Administration to refine the drafting of the CSAs to the new sections 5D(4)(b)(ii) and 5E(3)(b)(ii) to better reflect the legislative intent that the Registrar cannot cancel/suspend the appointment of a person as civil celebrant before the expiry of a period of 14 days or a longer period that the Registrar has allowed for the person to make representation;	

(g) the Administration to improve the clarity of the new section 27(2)(b) proposed by the draft CSA;	
(h) the Administration to consider whether it is necessary to adopt a consistent expression for “null and void”, “void” and “invalid” in section 27 and the new Schedule 5; and	
(i) the Administration to consider whether the “reasonable excuse” defence provision should also be included in the new section 31A(5).	

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
20 October 2005