

**Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022 (Sections 81-88) <https://malegislature.gov/budget>**  
*This Act is effective October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and amends sections of Chapter 207, M.G.L. "Marriage."*

- SECTION 81. Chapter 207 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 7, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-
  - Section 7. A magistrate or minister shall not solemnize a marriage if a party to the intended marriage is under the age of 18.
- SECTION 82. Said chapter 207 is hereby further amended by striking out section 24, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-
  - Section 24. The clerk or registrar shall not receive a notice of the intention of marriage of a person under the age of 18.
- SECTION 83. Said chapter 207 is hereby further amended by striking out section 25, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-
  - Section 25. Notwithstanding sections 7, 24 and 33A or any other general or special law to the contrary, any minor who is married may avail himself of all legal remedies and relief that would otherwise be available if they were not a minor, in order to initiate proceedings for divorce under chapter 208, annulment under chapter 207 and protective orders under chapters 209A and 258E.
- SECTION 84. Section 27 of said chapter 207, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the second and third sentences.
- SECTION 85. Said chapter 207 is hereby further amended by striking out section 33A, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-
  - Section 33A. The clerk or registrar shall not issue a certificate under section 28 before receiving proof of age of the parties and verifying that both parties are not less than 18 years of age. Such proof shall be contained in any of the following documents, graded and taking precedence in the following order: (i) an original or certified copy of a record of birth; (ii) an original or certified copy of a baptismal record; (iii) a passport; (iv) a life insurance policy; (v) an employment certificate; (vi) a school record; (vii) an immigration record; (viii) a naturalization record; or (ix) a court record. The clerk or registrar shall not accept documentary evidence of a lower grade unless the clerk or registrar is satisfied that evidence of a higher grade is not readily procurable.
- SECTION 86. Section 34 of said chapter 207 is hereby repealed.
- SECTION 87. Section 51 of said chapter 207, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 1 and 2, the words "section seven, twenty-six or thirty-four" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- section 7 or 26.
- SECTION 88. Section 53 of said chapter 207, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 2, the words "section thirty-three" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- sections 24 and 33A.