

**Reprint  
as at 26 March 2015**



## **Royal Marriages Act 1772**

Imperial Act	11
Date of assent	1 April 1772
Commencement	1 April 1772

Royal Marriages Act 1772: ceased to have effect as part of the laws of New Zealand, at 1 pm on 26 March 2015, pursuant to section 12(1) of the Royal Succession Act 2013 (2013 No 149).

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**Note**

Changes authorised by subpart 2 of Part 2 of the Legislation Act 2012 have been made in this official reprint.  
Note 4 at the end of this reprint provides a list of the amendments incorporated.

**An Act for the better regulating the future marriages of the Royal Family****Preamble**

*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

Whereas your Majesty, from your paternal affection to your own family, and from your royal concern for the future welfare of your people, and the honour and dignity of your crown, was graciously pleased to recommend to your Parliament to take into their serious consideration, whether it might not be wise and expedient to supply the defect of the laws now in being, and by some new provision more effectually to guard the descendants of his late Majesty King George the Second (other than the issue of princesses who have married, or may hereafter marry, into foreign families) from marrying without the approbation of your Majesty, your heirs or successors, first had and obtained, we have taken this weighty matter into our serious consideration; And being sensible that marriages in the royal family are of the highest importance to the State, and that therefore the kings of this realm have ever been entrusted with the care and approbation thereof, and being thoroughly convinced of the wisdom and expediency of what your Majesty has thought fit to recommend, upon this occasion; We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, do humbly beseech your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that—

- 1 No descendant of his late Majesty King George the Second (other than the issue of princesses married, or who may marry, into foreign families) shall be capable of contracting matrimony without the previous consent of His Majesty, His heirs, etc, signified under the Great Seal, declared in Council, and entered in the Privy Council books. Marriage of any such descendant, without such consent, shall be void**

No descendant of the body of his late Majesty King George the Second, male or female, (other than the issue of princesses who have married, or may hereafter marry, into foreign families,) shall be capable of contracting matrimony without the previous consent of His Majesty, His heirs or successors, signified under the Great Seal, and declared in Council (which consent, to preserve the memory thereof, is hereby directed to be set out in the licence and register of marriage, and to be entered in the books of the Privy Council); and that every marriage, or matrimonial contract, of any such descendant, without such consent first had and obtained, shall be null and void, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

- 2 If any such descendant, above 25 years old, shall persist to contract a marriage without such consent, such descendant, after 12 months' notice to**

**Privy Council, may contract such marriage, which shall be good, unless both Houses of Parliament shall disapprove**

Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in case any such descendant of the body of his late Majesty King George the Second, being above the age of 25 years, shall persist in his or her resolution to contract a marriage disapproved of, or dissented from, by the King, His heirs or successors; that then such descendant, upon giving notice to the King's Privy Council, which notice is hereby directed to be entered in the books thereof, may, at any time from the expiration of 12 calendar months after such notice given to the Privy Council as aforesaid, contract such marriage; and his or her marriage with the person before proposed and rejected, may be duly solemnised, without the previous consent of His Majesty, His heirs or successors; and such marriage shall be good, as if this Act had never been made, unless both Houses of Parliament shall, before the expiration of the said 12 months, expressly declare their disapprobation of such intended marriage.

**3 Persons wilfully solemnising or assisting at a marriage without such consent to incur the penalties of the Statute of Praemunire 1392**

*[Repealed]*

Section 3: repealed, on 1 January 1989, by section 4(1) of the Imperial Laws Application Act 1988 (1988 No 112).

## Reprints notes

### **1** *General*

This is a reprint of the Royal Marriages Act 1772 that incorporates all the amendments to that Act as at the date of the last amendment to it.

### **2** *Legal status*

Reprints are presumed to correctly state, as at the date of the reprint, the law enacted by the principal enactment and by any amendments to that enactment. Section 18 of the Legislation Act 2012 provides that this reprint, published in electronic form, has the status of an official version under section 17 of that Act. A printed version of the reprint produced directly from this official electronic version also has official status.

### **3** *Editorial and format changes*

Editorial and format changes to reprints are made using the powers under sections 24 to 26 of the Legislation Act 2012. See also <http://www.pco.parliament.govt.nz/editorial-conventions/>.

### **4** *Amendments incorporated in this reprint*

Royal Succession Act 2013 (2013 No 149): section 12(1)

Imperial Laws Application Act 1988 (1988 No 112): section 4(1)