

CHAPTER 01

COMMON LAW

Marriage in Roman Law	1
01.01. Introduction	1
01.02. Marriage relationship	7
01.03. Polygamous union	8
01.04. Formation of a marriage	8
01.05. Marriage brokerage contracts	10
01.06. Capacity for marriage	10
01.07. Conditional promise of marriage	11
01.08. Customary marriage	12
01.09. Marriage by cohabitation and repute	14
01.10. Christian/Catholic marriages	17
01.11. Impediments to marriage	21
(A). Married person while his or her marriage subsists	21
(B). An insane person	26
(C). A minor (below marriageable age)	27
(D). Prohibited category of relationship	29
(E). Guardian and a ward	33
(F). Person of the same sex	33
01.12. Conditional marriage or limited and extraneous purpose marriage	34
01.13. Death-bed marriage	36
01.14. Presumption of legality	37
01.15. Legal effect of a marriage	39
01.16. Married status	39
01.17. Husband as head of the family	42
01.18. Duty of support and maintenance of the joint household	43
01.19. Protection of the marriage from third parties	46
01.20. Bigamy	48
01.21. Family law history in Sri Lanka	53

01.22. Marriages (General) Ordinance	56
01.23. Citizenship	57
(A). Constitutional provisions	57
(B). Citizenship Act	58
(C). Citizenship by decent	59
(D). Citizenship by registration	62
(E). Loss of citizenship	66
(F). Restriction against dual citizenship	66
(G). Resumption of citizenship	68
(H). Indian and Pakistani Residents (Citizenship) Act	70
(I). Immigrants and Emigrants Act	81
CHAPTER 02	
INVALID MARRIAGES	
02.01. Cancellation and repudiation of espousals	83
02.02. Void marriages	84
(A). Insanity or intoxication	85
(B). Duress or undue influence	85
(C). Mistake or fraud	86
02.03. Declaration of status	90
02.04. Provisions of General (Marriage) Ordinance	92
02.05. Non-consummation of marriage	95
02.06. Effect of a void marriage	100
02.07. Effect of a voidable marriage	101
CHAPTER 03	
BREACH OF PROMISE FOR MARRIAGE	
03.01. Promise to marry	103
03.02. Written promise	103
03.03. Breach of marriage contract	110
03.04. Quantum of damages	112
03.05. Mitigation of damages	113
03.06. Public policy	114
03.07. Illegal contract	116

03.08. Damages for seduction	117
(A). Consent of the woman	118
(B). Corroboration of evidence	118
(C). Minor's claim	120
(D). Claims against a married man	121
(E). Quantum of damages	122
(F). Prescription	123
(G). Mediation Board certificate not required	124

CHAPTER 04

DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE BY DIVORCE

04.01. Introduction	125
04.02. Domicile	126
04.03. Malicious desertion	129
(A). Malicious desertion	129
(B). Constructive malicious desertion	132
(C). <i>Sine animus deserendi</i>	136
(D). Burden of proof	141
04.04. Adultery	144
(A). Adultery	144
(B). Necessity to make co-defendant a party	146
(C). When both spouses are guilty of adultery	151
(D). Condonation	153
(E). Collusion	156
(F). Burden of proof	159
04.05. Incurable impotency	165
04.06. Separation a <i>mensa et thoro</i>	168
04.07. Claims against a co-defendant	177
04.08. Property claims	179
04. 09. Property rights after a divorce decree	185
04.10. Settlement of property and payment of gross sums	186
04.11. Forfeiture of benefit of the guilty spouse	193
04.12. Right of deserted wife to remain in occupation of matrimonial home	194

04.13. Alimony	196
04.14. Alimony <i>pendente lite</i>	204
04.15. Decree of divorce	207
04.16. Foreign divorce decree	210
04.17. Transfer of an action	212
04.18. Inherent powers of the court	213
04.19. Consequences of a divorce	217
04.20. <i>Res judicata</i>	218
04.21. Collateral attack on a divorce decree	220
	225

CHAPTER 05

PROCEDURAL LAW

05.01. Jurisdiction	225
05.02. Cause of action against a co-defendant	231
05.03. Decree <i>nisi</i> for dissolution of a marriage	232
05.04. Decree absolute for dissolution of a marriage	234
05.05. Application for a separation <i>a mensa et thoro</i>	237
05.06. Reversal of a decree for separation	239
05.07. Amendment of pleadings	240
05.08. Application for alimony	241
05.09. Modification of orders	245
05.10. Appeals	246
05.11. Costs	246

CHAPTER 06

LEGITIMACY

06.01. Birth in relation to civil status	249
06.02. Registration of births and deaths	250
06.03. Declaration of status	253
06.04. Presumption of legitimacy	255
06.05. Standard of proof	257
06.06. Illegitimate children	262
06.07. Legitimation of an illegitimate child	267

CHAPTER 07**ADOPTION OF CHILDREN**

07.01. Adoption of Children Ordinance	271
07.02. Rules of adoption	272
07.03. Foster parents	277
07.04. Rights and duties of an adopter	277
07.05. <i>De facto</i> adoption	278
07.06. Jurisdiction	279
07.07. Registration of adoption	279
07.08. Offences	281

CHAPTER 08**CUSTODY OF MINORS**

08.01. Custody of minors	283
08.02. Application for <i>habeas corpus</i>	287
08.03. Paramount consideration of the child	291
08.04. Appointment of guardians	297
08.05. Prohibited category of guardians	299
08.06. Duties of a guardian	300
08.07. Sale of minor's property	303
08.08. End of guardianship	306
08.09. Compromise in court	307
08.10. Duties of curator	310
08.11. Appointment of a next friend	311
08.12. Appointment of guardians and managers for persons of unsound mind	315
08.13. Recall of appointments of guardians and managers	317
08.14. Children and Young Persons Ordinance	318
08.15. Children and Young Persons Harmful Publications Act	319
08.16. Domestic Violence Act	320
08.17. Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction	321

CHAPTER 09**MAINTENANCE**

09.01. Maintenance Act No. 37 of 1999	327
09.02. Jurisdiction	328
09.03. Maintenance of spouse	329
(A). Maintenance of spouse	329
(B). Living in separation	330
(C). Living in adultery	331
(D). Divorced wife	335
09.04. Maintenance of children	336
(A). Legitimate children	336
(B). Illegitimate children	337
(C). Corroboration of evidence	338
(D) Evidence of a dumb witness	346
09.05. Maintenance of adult offspring	348
09.06. Maintenance of disabled offspring	350
09.07. Sufficient means	351
09.08. Period of payment	354
09.09. The applicant for maintenance	355
09.10. Procedure of inquiry	356
09.11. Enforcement of maintenance orders	359
09.12. Cancellation/alteration of maintenance orders	360
09.13. <i>Res judicata/autrefois acquit</i>	361
09.14. Right of appeal	365
09.15. Costs	368
09.16. Application for maintenance is not barred by other actions	369

CHAPTER 10**MATRIMONIAL RIGHTS AND INHERITANCE**

10.01. Matrimonial Rights and Inheritance Ordinance	371
10.02. Property rights	372
10.03. Inheritance	374
10.04. Effect of a divorce decree	377

10.05. Married Women's Property Ordinance	382
10.06. Property claims after a divorced decree	384

CHAPTER 11

INTESTATE SUCCESSION

11.01. Testamentary proceedings	391
11.02. Appointment of guardian/manager	393
11.03. Grant of letters of administration/certificate of heirship	394
11.04. Corporation as executor/administrator	398
11.05. Appointment of Public Trustee as executor/administrator	398
11.06. Letters <i>ad colligenda</i>	400
11.07. Burden of proof	400
11.08. Grant of limited probate/letters of administration	401
11.09. Recall of probate/letters of administration	405
11.10. Filing of inventory and accounts	409
11.11. Fiduciary relationship	415
11.12. Exclusion from the estate	417
11.13. Restriction on transfer of property	418
11.14. Death of executor/administrator	422

CHAPTER 12

TESTATE SUCCESSION

12.01. Last Will	423
12.02. Codicil	424
12.03. Foreign Will	426
12.04. Joint ownership of properties	427
12.05. Joint Last Will	428
12.06. Minority	428
12.07. Jurisdiction	429
12.08. Eligibility to make an application?	430
12.09. Application shall be made within time	431
12.10. Presumption of genuineness	432

12.11. Trial	433
12.12. Trial on foreign probate	439
12.13. Undue influence	440
12.14. Removal of suspicion	441
12.15. Revocation of a Will by a second marriage	446
12.16. Presumptions of revocation/destruction	447
12.17. Tacit revocation	449
12.18. Conditional bequeaths	450
12.19. Invalid conditions	451
12.20. Construction of a Will	452
12.21. Burden of proof	454
12.22. Preferential rights to obtain probate	458
12.23. Recall of probate	459
12.24. Minors right	462
12.25. Wilful concealment of a Will	462
12.26. Supervising and controlling of executors and administrators	463
(A). Issue of citations	463
(B). Filing of inventory, valuation and accounts	467
(C). Payments to creditors	469
(D). Exemption on nomination	470
12.27. Settlement of the estate	471
12.28. Exclusion of prescription	474
12.29. Appels	475
12.30. <i>Res Judicata</i>	476
12.31. Inherent powers	476
12.32. Contempt of court	479

CHAPTER 13

KANDYAN LAW

13.01. Introduction	480
13.02. Kandyan Provinces	482
13.03. Kandyans	482
13.04. Kandyan marriages	486
13.05. Impediments for a marriage	487

(A). Minority	487
(B). Prohibited degree of relationship	489
(C). Subsistence of a valid marriage	490
13.06. Registration of Kandyan marriages	491
13.07. <i>Diga</i> marriages	491
13.08. <i>Binna</i> marriages	493
13.09. Kandyan divorce	493
13.10. Widow's maintenance	494
13.11. Legitimacy	495
13.12. Legitimation by subsequent marriage	498
13.13. Adoption	501
13.14. Guardianship	503
13.15. Succession	505
13.16. Widow's right of succession	506
13.17. Widow's life interest	509
13.18. Inheritance in <i>binna</i> marriages	509
13.19. Inheritance in <i>diga</i> marriages	513
13.20. Returning of <i>diga</i> married woman to <i>mulgedera</i>	518
13.21. Parents' inheritance	521
(A). Father's inheritance	521
(B). Mother's Inheritance	523
13.22. Inheritance of brothers and sisters	523
13.23. Inheritance rights of illegitimates	524
13.24. Inheritance of <i>paraveni</i> property	529
13.25. Inheritance of acquired property	531
13.26. Inheritance of <i>nindagam</i> property	537
13.27. Kinds of lands in the Kandyan Kingdom	538
(A). Crown Lands	539
(B). <i>Nindagam</i>	539
(C). <i>Viharagam</i> and <i>dewalagam</i>	539
(D). <i>Koralagam</i> and <i>Vidanagam</i>	540
13.28. Inheritance of movables	541
13.29. Deed of gift	543
13.30. Revocation of Kandyan deed of gift	544

CHAPTER 14**THESAWALAMAI LAW**

14.01. Applicability of Thesawalamai Law	555
14.02. Domicile	559
14.03. Applicability of Roman-Dutch Law	562
14.04. Hindu customary marriage	563
14.05. Inheritance	563
1. Different kinds of property	565
2. Dowry	571
3-6. Marriage of daughters and the dowry given with them	572
7. Marriage of sons and their portions	575
8. Resignation of property	576
9. Succession to property where children and their mother are left	576
10. Property how to be divided where the mother marries again	577
11. Succession to property where children and their father are left	578
12. Division of property where orphan children are left	578
13. Division of property where there are half- brothers and sisters	578
14. Division of property where there is issue of both marriages	579
15. Division of property where two persons, each being the sole child of their respective parents, die without issue	581
16. Property how to be divided where it has been improved	581
17. Where a Pagan marries a Christian woman	582
18. Where two Pagans intermarry	582
19. Where a person dies issueless	583
14.06. Illegitimate children	585
(A). Inheritance	585

(B). Legitimation of illegitimate children	585
14.07. Matrimonial rights and inheritance	586
14.08. Spousal concurrence	587
(A). Husband's concurrence in litigation	587
(B). When a spouse does not give his concurrence	592
14.09. Adoption	594
(1). Ceremonies of adoption	594
(2). Succession and division of property, in the case of adoption, where the parties adopting leave other children	595
(3). Where the adopted person dies without issue	596
(4). Where two children, not related, are adopted	596
(5). Division of property among adopted children, to the adoption of whom some of the relatives of the person adopting consent, while others refuse their consent	596
(6). Where one of three brothers adopt a child	597
(7). Adoption of a person of a higher or lower caste	597
14.10. Custody of children	598
14.11. Possession of the grounds and gardens	599
(1). Joint possession or tenancy in common	600
(2). Renting of ground	600
(3). Division of produce where fruit trees overhang the ground of another	600
(4). To whom the possession of palmyra trees belongs	601
14.12. Donations	601
(1). In what cases a gift may or may not be made where husband and wife live separately	602
(2). How far they may make donations to their nephews and nieces	603
(3). When they receive a gift of land from another person	604
(4). How far gifts to one of two sons are good	604

(5). Presents to sons, being bachelors, by relations, remain to them on their marriage, but no other presents	605
14.13. Mortgages and pawns	606
(1). Mortgages of lands, on condition that the mortgagee should possess the same, and take the profits thereof in lieu of interests	607
(2). Mortgagee so in possession to be liable to all land taxes or duties	607
(3). Redemption of a mortgage where due notice has not been given by the mortgagor of mortgages for certain terms of years	607
(4). Mortgages for certain terms of years	608
(5). Mortgages of fruit trees	608
(6). Mortgages of slaves (presently redundant)	608
(7). Loans money for the use of beasts	608
(8). Pawns of jewels etc.	609
14.14. Hire of beasts	609
14.15. Purchase and sale of lands	610
(A). Sale of lands	610
(B). Sale of cattle	611
14.16. Settlements of liabilities	611
14.17. Pre-emption	612
14.18. Litigation	616
14.19. Hindu temple	618
14.20. Mukkuwa Law	618

CHAPTER 15

MUSLIM LAW

15.01. Muslim Marriage and Divorce	622
15.02. Applicability of Roman-Dutch Law	623
15.03. Polygamous marriage	623
15.04. Contract of marriage	624
(A). Prohibited degree of marriage	624

(B). Minority	625
(C). Bigamy	626
15.05. Quazis	626
15.06. Jurisdiction of Quazis	627
15.07. Registration of marriages	631
(A). Shafie Sect	632
(B). Hanafi Sect	633
15.08. Divorce	633
(A). Divorce by a husband	633
(B). Divorce by a wife	637
15.09. Cruelty/ill-treatments	638
15.10. Recovery of <i>kaikuli</i>	640
15.11. Registration of divorce	643
15.12. Maintenance of wife	645
15.13. Legitimacy	646
15.14. Maintenance of legitimate children	647
15.15. Maintenance of Muslim illegitimate children	648
15.16. Concurrent jurisdiction of the Magistrate Court in maintenance applications	651
15.17. Prohibition on adoption	651
15.18. Custody of children	654
(A.) Shafei Sect	656
(B). Hanafi Sect	658
15.19. <i>Habeas corpus</i>	658
15.20. Board of Quazis	659
15.21. Appeals to the Court of Appeal/Supreme Court	661
15.22. Intestate succession	666
15.23. Testate succession	670
15.24. Donation	674
(A). Donation inter-vivos	675
(B). Donation subject to life interests	676
(C). Delivery of possession	678
(D). Acceptance of a deed of gift	680
(E). Revocation of a deed of gift	682

15.25. Sale	686
15.26. Contract of minors	686
15.27. Decisory oath	687