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13th June 2022

Deputy Brian Stanley,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 25557/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the efforts that are being made to address the waiting lists to get an appointment to sign a marriage notification and complete all necessary documents with the register of births, marriages and deaths.

- Brian Stanley

Dear Deputy Stanley,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 25557/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Where possible, priority is given to cases in which the couple is close to the mandatory three months' notice deadline. In such situations the wait time for an appointment may be less than two weeks.

There is no wait time for terminally ill cases serving notice of intention to marry. Where a court exemption has been granted and the couple cannot (for reason of ill health) serve the mandatory three months' notice, the wait time can be eliminated as an immediate appointment is usually required.

Where a couple have a marriage ceremony date which is towards the end of 2022 or in 2023, they are asked to delay the scheduling of their appointment to a more appropriate date.

If the couple are EU residents and have not been previously married and are in a position to provide the necessary documentation at the initial appointment, in most cases, the process is fully complete on the day.

However, delays may occur, in certain circumstances, which cannot be quantified:

- If there has been a previous marriage for which a non-Irish Divorce requires clearance by the Office of the Registrar General, the time for completion may take up to eight months.
- To satisfy the impediment of a "Marriage of Convenience" an additional interview is required and due to waiting lists, this may also take up to 8 months to complete.
- For those couples travelling from abroad to marry in Ireland the process is dependent on their travel plans.
- Delays will occur where the couple do not produce all the required documentation at their appointment and require another appointment to complete the process.
- The delay in wait times in some offices is directly attributed to appointments already booked for those couples who postponed plans due to Covid 19 and are required to serve notice again.



I have checked with relevant colleagues across those CHO areas that hold responsibility for Civil Registration Services in order to respond to your query. Please see attached Appendix 1, which outlines the position.

Appendix 1 – Average wait time to get an appointment to sign a marriage notification and complete all necessary documents.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Maeve Raeside

Maeve Raeside
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations