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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2003 No. 413**

**The Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order 2003**

*Civil marriages*

**Solemnisation of civil marriage**

**19.**—(1) A person shall not solemnise a civil marriage unless—

- (a) he has available to him at the time of the ceremony the marriage schedule and the prescribed fee for the marriage has been paid;
- (b) both parties to the marriage are present; and
- (c) two persons professing to be 16 or over are present as witnesses.

(2) A person shall not solemnise a civil marriage except in accordance with a form of ceremony which—

- (a) is of a secular nature; and
- (b) includes an appropriate declaration.

(3) In paragraph (2)(b) an “appropriate declaration” means a declaration by the parties, in the presence of—

- (a) each other;
- (b) the person solemnising the marriage; and
- (c) two witnesses,

that they accept each other as husband and wife.