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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1989 No. 677**

The Matrimonial and Family Proceedings  
(Northern Ireland) Order 1989

PART II

TIME RESTRICTIONS ON PRESENTATION OF  
PETITIONS FOR DIVORCE OR NULLITY OF MARRIAGE

**Bar on petitions for divorce within two years of marriage**

3. For Article 5 of the principal Order (which provides that no petition for divorce shall be presented within three years of marriage unless the leave of the court has been obtained) there shall be substituted the following Article—

**“Bar on petitions for divorce within two years of marriage**

5.—(1) No petition for divorce shall be presented to the court before the expiration of the period of two years from the date of the marriage.

(2) Nothing in this Article shall prohibit the presentation of a petition based on matters which occurred before the expiration of that period.”.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Matrimonial and Family Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, Section 3.