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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2003 No. 413**

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

*Marriage of person under 18*

**Order dispensing with relevant consent**

**23.**—(1) A county court may make an order dispensing with the consents required by Article 22 in relation to a young person if it is satisfied that the proposed marriage is in the best interests of the young person and either—

- (a) it is not reasonably practicable to obtain the consent of any person whose consent is required; or
- (b) any person whose consent is required withholds or refuses his consent; or
- (c) there is uncertainty as to whose consent is required.

(2) An application for an order under this Article may be made—

- (a) by or on behalf of the young person; or
- (b) by or on behalf of any person (including another young person) intending to marry a young person,

and without the intervention of a next friend.

(3) The decision of the county court on any application made under this Article shall be final and conclusive.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:**

- Order modified by [S.I. 2020/1143 reg. 15\(1\)](#)