



Proof of Marital Status and Names of Illegitimate Children in Liberia

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PROOF OF MARITAL STATUS AND NAMES OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN IN LIBERIA

Liberian law provides for the registration of native marriages.¹ However, non-registration does not affect the validity of a native marriage. Furthermore, section 25.3 of the Civil Procedure Law states that "the [p]ersons who live together as husband and wife and hold themselves out as such are presumed to be married."² Consequently, marriage registries cannot provide accurate information as to whether a citizen of Liberia has ever been married based on the above laws. The applicant may prove his marital status by a declaratory judgment since courts have the power to declare rights, status and other legal relations.³ However, we don't know if any of the laws mentioned above have been amended or repealed since our collections do not contain the recent laws of Liberia.

We can not ascertain, based on our scarce Liberian law sources in the Library of Congress, whether an illegitimate child has the right to carry the name of his/her natural father.

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¹ Sec. 402 Aborigines Law in 1 *Liberian Code of Laws of 1956* 67 (New York, 1957).

² 1 *Liberian Code of Laws Revised* 197 (New York, 1973).

³ *Id.* sec. 43.1 at 217.