

## Instructions on Implementing the Marriage Law

Central People's Government Administration Council February 1, 1953

Since the promulgation of the Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China, many achievements have been made in the implementation of the Marriage Law across the country. But development is uneven across regions. The leading organs in many areas seriously publicized the Marriage Law to the masses, correctly handled marriage disputes, and the consciousness of the masses was greatly improved. The feudal marriage system was basically destroyed, and the new democratic marriage system was established. The model couples who love each other and work hard and the model families that are democratic and united have played an active role in various political activities and economic construction. But so far, in most areas, because the leading organs and cadres lack a correct and comprehensive understanding of the Marriage Law, they cannot seriously and correctly publicize the Marriage Law and handle marriage disputes. Some cadres even take an attitude of resistance to the implementation of the Marriage Law and support the old feudal vices interfered with the freedom of marriage, so that arranged marriages were still popular in these areas, and women continued to be oppressed, abused, and even committed suicide or were killed because of unfree marriages. Most of the deceased were in their prime of life, and most of them were women.

This not only violates women's equal rights and freedom of marriage, but also affects the unity of the people, the country's production and construction and social order. Such a serious situation cannot be tolerated. Now, the land reform in the countryside and the democratic reform in the factories and mines in the cities have basically been completed throughout the country. (Except areas where the land reform has not yet been completed), carry out a large-scale mass movement to publicize the Marriage Law and inspect the implementation of the Marriage Law, fundamentally destroy the feudal marriage system of arranging and coercion, and male superiority; establish a new democracy of equal rights for men and women and freedom of marriage system, so as to establish a new type of family that is democratic, harmonious, and united in production, so as to enhance the strength of national economic construction and cultural construction. To this end, the following instructions are specially made:

1. Although the reform of the marriage system is an anti-feudal democratic reform, it is different from the land reform and other social reforms in the countryside. Because the reform of the marriage system is an ideological struggle among the people, it uses advanced ideas to oppose backward ideas - feudal ideas, and removes from people's minds the feudal consciousness about marriage issues left over from the old society. This requires a long-term and we should work carefully, meticulously, and patiently, instead of adopting a rough and hasty attitude and the method of class struggle, trying to solve the problem completely in one movement. Therefore, on the one hand, it is necessary to launch a large-scale mass campaign to publicize the Marriage Law and check the implementation of the Marriage Law, so that the broad masses of the people and cadres can draw a clear line from the feudal ideology, completely destroy the thousands of years of feudal marriage system, and correctly implement the new democratic marriage system, but on the other hand, we must adhere to the policy of education during the movement. For a large number of arranged marriages and family disharmony caused by unfree marriages, we should basically adopt methods of criticism and education, raising awareness, and improving and consolidating the relationship between husband and wife. If it is so bad that it is really impossible to continue, divorce should be granted, but it must go through serious mediation and persuasion work in order to gain

the sympathy of the masses; The public, after profound exposure, criticism and education, as long as he is determined to correct his mistakes, he does not need to be punished; for the very small number of serious criminals who abused, killed women, and interfered with the freedom of marriage, causing serious consequences and causing great public anger, they must be punished and be punished according to the law. In order to concentrate our efforts on destroying the feudal marriage system, we must never expand the problem to the general relationship between men and women and family relations, so as not to mess up the movement.

2. Although the reform of the marriage system is an ideological struggle among the people, the primary task of implementing the Marriage Law must be to conduct publicity and education among the cadres and the masses, establish a correct understanding of the Marriage Law, and demarcate feudalism ideologically. Since the influence of feudal ideology left over from feudal society on people cannot be eliminated at the same time as the feudal political system and feudal economic foundation are eliminated, there are still varying degrees of patriarchy among the masses and cadres. Women's feudal remnant thoughts, and various incorrect understandings of marriage law arising from it. They mistakenly believe that "marriage law is women's law, and women oppress men", "marriage law is divorce law" and so on. Under the dominance of this erroneous thinking, many cadres are indifferent to women who are fighting for the freedom of marriage; they turn a blind eye to the phenomenon of suicide and being killed because of unfree marriage. Some judicial organs and district and village cadres even interfered with the freedom of marriage, supported backward thinking and feudal bad habits, and imposed arbitrary charges on those who fought for the freedom of marriage. Therefore, in order to implement the Marriage Law, it is necessary to publicize the Marriage Law extensively and deeply among the masses, first among the cadres, so that they can correctly understand that the marriage system of New Democracy is to establish a democratic and harmonious society based on the freedom of marriage and the equality of men and women. And create unity and happy family, it can promote the development of social productive forces, is conducive to the production and construction of the country, and is conducive to the physical and mental health of future generations. In propaganda and education, it is necessary to carry out a series of ideological criticisms from top to bottom, from cadres to the masses, and analyze in detail the specific facts that violate the Marriage Law and various manifestations of feudal remnant thoughts on marriage issues, so as to promote Ideologically understand the class essence of the feudal marriage system and its harmfulness to society and the people, and lay a solid foundation for implementing the Marriage Law ideologically.

3. All over the country, except for minority areas and areas where land reform has not yet been completed, regardless of cities or villages, March 1953 should be used as a campaign month to promote and implement the Marriage Law. Within this month, it is necessary to fully mobilize the masses of men and women, especially the masses of women, to launch a massive and large-scale mass movement, so as to make the marriage law known to every household, deeply rooted in the hearts of the people, and play a great role in changing customs. To this end, all localities should mobilize all propaganda forces and use various methods to set off an upsurge of publicizing the Marriage Law in all factories, villages, government agencies, schools and streets. In the propaganda work, we should pay attention to praise the exemplary deeds and figures who enforce the Marriage Law, and expose and criticize thoughts and behaviors that violate the Marriage Law. Combined with the promotion of the implementation of the Marriage Law, convene meetings with villages, streets or families as units. Check the implementation of the Marriage Law, and, where necessary, initiate the conclusion of a convention to ensure the implementation of the Marriage Law and a family

convention for democratic harmony and united production in necessary places and families. In order to promote the movement, we should use the county as a unit and select typical criminals who abused women or interfered with the freedom of marriage and caused serious consequences and aroused great public outrage in areas with serious feudal marriage system. After full preparation, organize people's courts and hold public trials. General Assembly, publicly sentenced according to law. However, the death penalty must first be reported to the Central Committee and the Greater Administrative Region for approval. At the same time, some marriage cases that were wrongly judged in the past should be selected for revision.

4. During the campaign to implement the Marriage Law, we must carry out in-depth education on caring for revolutionary soldiers and their families, effectively help military families, disabled revolutionary soldiers, and demobilized soldiers solve difficulties, establish housework, improve the political status of military families, and honor the military families. Patriotic education, commending the exemplary deeds of military members supporting the front line, harmonious families, and labor production. When dealing with marriage cases of revolutionary soldiers, it is necessary to follow the provisions of Article 19 of the Marriage Law and other laws and regulations related to the handling of marriages of revolutionary soldiers. For marriages that do not meet the above regulations, we should patiently persuade and educate them to consciously abide by government laws and regulations. One-sided protection of women's interests must not be used as an excuse to affect the care of revolutionary soldiers. Marriage events that meet the above requirements should be handled in strict accordance with the statutory performance.

5. When the majority of women are fighting for the freedom of marriage and feudal remnants of thought and practice, some women must temporarily encounter difficulties and persecution in life during the struggle. If temporary relief is not given, they will not only live feeling helpless, the struggle is discouraged, and life is in danger. Therefore, the party and government organs and people's organizations in all localities are responsible for providing these people with the necessary protection, relief, and temporary resettlement, and they must not shirk their responsibilities.

6. After this instruction is issued, the people's governments at or above the county level shall immediately organize a campaign committee to implement the Marriage Law, attract relevant representatives from all walks of life and all walks of life to participate, discuss and formulate a plan for implementing the Marriage Law campaign. And under this committee, on the basis of supervisory, civil affairs, judicial departments, women's federations, youth leagues, and trade union cadres, recruit cadres from relevant departments to participate, set up an office to start work, actively organize forces, train cadres, collect typical cases, and prepare for publicity materials, conduct typical tests, learn from experience, and make adequate preparations for Sports Month. The campaign committees for implementing the Marriage Law at all levels should keep in close contact with their superiors and subordinates, and earnestly implement the system of asking for instructions and reporting, so as to keep abreast of the situation and guide the campaign. People's governments at all levels must ensure that this campaign is conducted under leadership, in a planned, organized, and healthy manner, so that the campaign can achieve its intended purpose.