



## home affairs

Department:  
Home Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BI-57

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Our Ref: DD1/2/2/2 – 236/2013/DDRA; Your Ref. SAH-2012-DHA-0004 and SAH-20132-DHA-0004

South African History Archives  
P O Box 31719  
BRAAMFONTEIN  
2017

Attention: Mr Senkhu Maimane / Ms Kathryn Johnson

E-mail address: foip@saha.org.za

### REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS – SAH-2012-DHA-0004 AND SAH-2013-0004

1. The above matter refers.
2. Kindly be advised that your request for access to the abovementioned information has been considered in terms of the provisions of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (Act No. 2 of 2000) (“the Act”), and in this regard I wish to indicate that your request has been granted.
3. The information as requested is as follows:
  - (a) Criterion set out by the Department to register as a marriage officer  
Any religious denomination or organisation may make an application to be designated as a religious denomination or organisation which solemnizes civil unions, followed by an application by the individual minister of religion within such designated denomination. This is in line with section 5 of the Civil Union Act, 2006 (Act No. 17 of 2006) (“the Act”).
  - (b) turnaround time for the department to process applications for registering a marriage officer

From the first application as indicated in paragraph (a) above until an examination is written, it may take up to six months for the actual designation to be issued.

- (c) total number of designated marriage officers authorised to carry out Civil Unions in the Department

There is no specific total number as all marriage officers who are officials of the Department are appointed to solemnize marriages and automatically they become marriage officers under the Act although they not compelled to solemnize civil unions as they may lodge an objection in terms of section 6 of the Act. There are 149 marriage officers appointed from January 2012 to August 2013.

- (d) total number of designated marriage officers authorised to carry out Civil Unions in private

There are no marriage officers appointed to solemnize civil unions in private capacity.

- (e) total number of civil union licenses applications, applied for from December 2006 to April 2012

A total of 122 applications were received from December 2006 to April 2012.

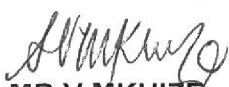
- (f) total number of civil union licenses applications, pending approval from December 2006 to April 2012

There are 51 applications received from December 2006 to April 2012 of which 5 applicants failed the tests and 46 did not report for writing tests. Therefore, these applications should not necessarily be regarded as pending.

- (g) total number of civil union licenses issued from December 2006 to April 2012

A total of 71 civil union licenses were issued from December 2006 to April 2012 and upto August 2013 is 133.

Kind regards



**MR V MKHIZE**  
**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CIVIC SERVICES**

DATE: 2013/11/11