

Legal Trends in Marriage

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Marriage in many communities and countries, including the United States, is considered a lawful affair, even though there are variances depending on the states on aspects such as the age of the couples. Legal, religious, and social procedures are also observed in conduct of marriage procedure in countries such as the United Kingdom. The legality, or legal aspects, of marriage as a social institution varies from one country to another. In the past century, however, there have been many changes in the way marriage is conducted within the legal observatories in the United Kingdom and the United States in regard to aspects such as the marrying couples, the factors that could lead to divorce as well as the age of the couples who wish to marry each other. The changes have been motivated by the impact of modernization amid the heightening rates of divorce in the two countries. The industrialization processes, the growth of technology, and enlightenment have played a key role in social changes that have changed how marriage is viewed. According to Anderson et al. (2012), the changes are meant to align with the new legal trend affecting the institution in the two countries. Thus, this essay will compare and contrast the legal trends affecting the marriage institution in the United Kingdom and the United States.

Marriage in the United States

The scope of law observation for marriage procedure varies depending on the individual states in the United States. Depending on the states, individuals have the right to enter the marriage institution through liberty or consent. Over the years, with the removal of bans on same-sex and interracial relationships, the definition of marriage has shifted dramatically. Marriages vary, among other factors, in terms of social factors, morality, and age. Marriage is based on the need for children, financial stability, and intimacy. Marriage will end by the

partner's divorce, annulment or death. Divorce is known to be the dissolution of marriage in various jurisdictions, though the rules vary. Nevertheless, the laws generally cover land separation, support of the children and subsequent duties against the partners. Domestic partnership in the US are considered as civil unions. They are observed I varying levels of jurisdiction. For example, at the state levels, the marriage or domestic partnership is allowed for patterns who could be of the same or the opposite sex without much of obstruction from the federal laws. The partnership is a modern trend where the partners do not have to be in the typical marriage institution. Instead, they agree to stay together I the same house for the sake of intimate satisfaction.

Marriage in the United Kingdom

As in the United States, the institution of marriage in the United Kingdom is lawfully documented by legal institutions such as the court or the church unions. There is not limitation as to what sex should the partners comes from. There is difference, even not much significant, between the marriage pressured observed in be the civil authorizes and that carried out in the church where there is a congregation to witness the occurrence. The registrant have differing requirement as those that would be required in the church. With the consent of the parents, the marriage is allowed for teenagers who have reached the age of 16. However, any person is free to marry their partners at free will if they have both attained the age of 18 years or more. Marriage between relatives is prohibited in the United Kingdom. The status is considered for the partners even though it only remains effective for two years. The following causes lay the basis for divorce, as laid out in the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973. (Mooney, Knox & Schacht, 2014). These triggers include unreasonable behavior, unfaithfulness, more than two years of abandonment and breakup decided for two years, while the disputed one lasts for five years.

Comparison between Legal Concerns in US and UK

The issues of marriage between citizens and the foreigners are key areas of legal intervention that can be seen in the two countries. Many people have taken the advantage of the institution to make them citizens of the countries where their partners come from. For example, in the United States, a person from another country automatically becomes a US citizen when they marry a partner from the country. Thus, many people, including those who come to the United States as citizens, have taken advantage of the affair to become US citizens. In the UK such persons have taken advantage of the affair to conduct criminal activities in the country without being identified. In this respect, laws governing the marriage of people and foreigners in both countries have been strict. For example, the Immigration Marriage Fraud Amendment of 1986 in the United States guides the institution of marriage (Mooney, Knox & Schacht, 2014). The reforms mean that immigrants who receive marriage-based citizenship are deemed to be temporary immigrants for two years. Three months into the end of two years, married persons are eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship. In the United Kingdom, before the ceremony, the immigrant marrying a UK national has to apply for a visa. Foreigners can apply for settlement after two and half years in the marriage affair.

Contrast

Disparities tend to occur between the acceptance of same-sex weddings, particularly for foreigners and citizens of both the United States and the United Kingdom. For all federal purposes counting the intent of immigration, the United States does not accept same-sex couples or spouses (Eekelaar & George, 2014). However, the United Kingdom accepts same-sex couples

or spouses, except for immigration functions, partners or spouses must have been married for at least two years prior to qualifying for UK citizenship.

Lastly, there are many legal trends that can be identified in the marriage as an institution in UK and the US. The trends are dissimilar as they are similar. In the respect to similar trends, the US and the UK have the same period of time after which a foreigner is allowed to seek perpetual and peppermint settlement in the United States. After the period, they are also allowed to apply for a citizenship. For immigration issues, however, the United States bars same-sex marriages or partnership that involve foreigners citing immigration issues. Thus, a foreigner cannot be allowed to acquire the US citizenship if they are related to partner of the same sex. In the United Kingdom, immigrants can be able to apply for the citizenship and settlement if they have same-sex partners and have been together for a period of two years and half.

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