
SUBMISSION

Evidence Amendment Bill 2008

Unfortunately, this Evidence Amendment Bill 2008 seems to be a not-thought-through Bill with regards to relationships other than legal marriage.

Marriage is a legally binding relationship. It is usual for there to be some practical and relationship preparation. The marriage service is not something that can take place 'at a moment's notice'.

Also, this preparedness of a couple to sign a public commitment puts them in a relationship different from any other. Because of their legally binding commitment, it is fitting they cannot be forced to give evidence against each other.

However, other relationships (De Facto and same-sex) can begin on a whim and just as quickly – for whatever reason, and the reasons could well include a protection from the law if this Bill were passed. It may well be expedient to enter such a relationship, which would necessarily be on-going because of the time for criminal investigations, court trials, etc. Hence duration of the relationship would not be an indication of the 'innocence' of the reason for the liaison.

This Bill should be to protect only legally married couples.

Submitted on 25.07.08 by
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