



**OFFICE OF THE HONOURABLE PRESIDENT
CUSTOMARY COURT OF APPEAL
FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY JUDICIARY**



In the exercise of the powers conferred on me by the provisions of Section 269 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), Section 20 of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja Customary Court of Appeal Degree No. 30 of 1991, and by the virtue of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I, HON. JUSTICE ADEKUNLE STANLEY LAWAL, FICMC, FDRI, President of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, hereby issue the following Practice Directions:

1. Establishment:

- 1.1 There is hereby established in the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a Marriage Certification Unit to be domiciled under the Oaths Department of the Court.
- 1.2 The Unit shall be responsible for the processing and issuing Marriage Certificates for marriages conducted under Customary Laws.

2. Applicability

This Practice Direction shall, save as may be otherwise directed by the Hon. President, apply to all marriages conducted under Customary laws.

3. Objectives and Guiding Principles

The objective of this Practice Direction is to bring to the attention of the general public, the existence of the Marriage Certification Unit in the Hon. Court, and outline the procedure for applying for and obtaining a Customary Marriage Certificate from the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

4. Directions

- 4.1 Any party seeking a Customary Marriage Certificate shall submit an application to the Marriage Certification Unit, accompanied by the following:
 - i. Proof of customary marriage;
 - ii. Identification documents of both parties;
 - iii. Evidence of compliance with the requirements of the respective customs such as payment of dowry or bride price, etc.
 - iv. Sworn declarations by the witnesses.

- 4.2 Application for registration and certification of a Customary Marriage shall be in a prescribed Form as in the attached Schedule to this Practice Direction.
- 4.3 The Unit shall conduct the necessary verification(s) and upon satisfaction, issue a Certificate of Customary Marriage to the applicants, stating the relevant custom under which the Marriage was conducted.
- 4.4 The Marriage Certification Unit shall keep and maintain a register of all Customary Marriages certified at the Customary Court of the FCT, pursuant to this Practice Direction.
- 4.6 The Hon. The President may review this Practice Direction and/or issue further directives as prevailing circumstances may dictate.
5. **Prescribed Fees**
- Fees payable for the Marriage Certificate shall be =N=5,000.00 (Five Thousand Naira) only.
6. **Citation**
- This Practice Direction shall be cited as the FCT Customary Court of Appeal (Marriage Certificate) Practice Direction No. 3 of 2026.
7. **Commencement**
- This Practice Direction shall commence on the 1st day of March, 2026.

Issued under the seal of:

Hon. Justice Adekunle Stanley Lawal, FICMC, FDRI
Hon. President
Customary Court of Appeal, FCT-Abuja.

This 6th Day of February, 2026

