

SECTION 14
Marriage Ceremony^a

1. The registrar shall, in the presence of two witnesses, ask the contracting parties individually, one after the other, whether they wish to marry each other, and after they have replied in the affirmative, shall state, in the name of the law, that they are now a legally united married couple.

2? The registrar shall enter the marriage in the family register.

t SECTION 15
Competence of the Registrar

1. The marriage shall be concluded before the competent registrar.

2. The competent registrar is the one *m* whose district one of the contracting parties is domiciled or usually resides. If there are several competent registrars, the choice rests with the contracting parties.

3. If neither of the contracting parties is domiciled or usually resides in this country, then the competent authority to conduct the marriage ceremony in this country is the registrar of the Registrar's Office I in Berlin or the Head Registrar's Offices in Munich, Baden-Baden and Hamburg.

4. With a written authorization from the competent registrar, the marriage can also be contracted before the registrar of another district.

D. Nullity of the marriage

I. Grounds for Nullity

SECTION 16

A marriage is void only in the cases set out in Sections 17 to 22 of this Law.

SECTION 17

Lack of Form

1. A marriage is void if it has not taken place in the form prescribed in Section 13.

2. The marriage is, however, to be regarded as valid from the beginning if the married couple have lived together as man and wife for five years after contracting the marriage, or in the case of the previous death of one of them, up to the time of such death, but in any event for at least three years, unless before the end of the five years or at the time of the death of one of the parties, a nullity action has been started.