

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NO. 3261

6 June 2025

**PUBLICATION OF EXPLANATORY SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL (FAMILY) LAWS
AMENDMENT BILL, 2025**

1. Notice is hereby given in terms of Rule 276(1)(b) of the Rules of the National Assembly that the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development intends to introduce the General (Family) Laws Amendment Bill, 2025 (Bill), in the National Assembly shortly.
2. The explanatory summary of the Bill is hereby published in accordance with Rule 276(1)(c) of the Rules of the National Assembly.
3. The Bill seeks to amend the—
 - 3.1 Divorce Act, 1979 (Act No. 70 of 1979), to provide for the consequential amendments of certain sections, arising from the amendments to the Mediation in Certain Divorce Matters Act, 1987, and to provide for the transfer of assets by a court granting a decree of divorce in respect of a marriage out of community of property to include a marriage entered into before the commencement of the Matrimonial Property Act, 1984;
 - 3.2 Matrimonial Property Act, 1984 (Act No. 88 of 1984), to provide for the distribution of matrimonial property of a marriage out of community of property upon the dissolution of the marriage by death; and
 - 3.3 Mediation in Certain Divorce Matters Act, 1987 (Act No. 24 of 1987), to provide for the functions of the Office of the Family Advocate, and to amend the long and short titles, and to provide for matters connected therewith.
4. After introduction, a copy of the Bill can be found on the websites of the Parliamentary Monitoring Group at <http://www.pmg.org.za> and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development at www.justice.gov.za and may also be obtained from the Government Printers: Cape Town (Telephone number: (021) 465-7531).