

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE MARRIAGE ACT M6 TO PROHIBIT THE MARRYING OF MINORS AND FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH

*Sponsored by Senator David Umaru*

[ ] Commencement

BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:

1           **1.** The Marriage Act Cap M6 LFN 2004 (hereinafter simply  
2 referred to as the "Principal Act") is hereby amended and set out in this Bill  
3 as follows:

Amendment of  
the Marriage Act  
CAP M6 LFN,  
2004

4           **2.** This Bill may be cited as the Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

Amendment of  
Section 1  
(Short Title)

5           **3.** Section 2 is amended by introducing two new paragraphs with  
6 the words "Marriage shall mean the union for life of a man and a woman who  
7 has attained full age and capacity, to the exclusion of others". "Full age shall  
8 mean the same as prescribed under the Nigerian Child Rights Act"

Amendment of  
Section 2  
(Interpretation)

9           **4.** Section 18 -20 is deleted and the Principal Act is renumbered  
10 sequentially

Amendment of  
Section 18-20  
(Consent of  
Marriage in certain  
cases necessary)

11           **5.** Section 48 is deleted and a new section 48 is introduced with the  
12 words "MARRYING A MINOR- whoever agrees to marry a minor or  
13 marries a minor or causes a minor to be married to another is guilty of an  
14 offence and is liable to imprisonment of 5 years.

Amendment of  
Section 48

### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to prohibit minors from validly contracting a marriage.