

## **NEPAL FAMILY LAWS**

### **Marriage, Divorce, and Family Matters**

#### **1. Marriage Laws:**

- Muluki Civil Code, 2017 governs marriage
- Minimum age: 20 years for both parties
- Consent of both parties required
- Registration mandatory within 35 days

#### **2. Marriage Registration:**

- Local government registration
- Required documents:
  - \* Citizenship certificates
  - \* Age proof
  - \* Consent letters
  - \* Witness statements
- Registration fees apply

#### **3. Divorce Laws:**

- Mutual consent divorce
- Fault-based divorce grounds:
  - \* Adultery
  - \* Cruelty
  - \* Desertion
  - \* Mental illness
  - \* Conversion to another religion
- One year separation requirement
- Court proceedings required

#### **4. Child Custody:**

- Best interest of child standard
- Joint custody possible
- Child support obligations
- Visitation rights
- Age and preference consideration

#### **5. Property Division:**

- Equal division of marital property
- Separate property protection
- Business asset division
- Debt allocation
- Maintenance provisions

#### **6. Adoption:**

- Adoption Act, 2028
- Domestic and international adoption
- Age requirements for adoptive parents

- Child welfare considerations
- Court approval required

7. Inheritance:

- Equal inheritance rights
- Intestate succession rules
- Will and testament validity
- Family property division
- Spouse inheritance rights

8. Domestic Violence:

- Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2009
- Protection orders available
- Criminal penalties
- Support services
- Reporting requirements

9. Child Rights:

- Children's Act, 2018
- Education rights
- Health care access
- Protection from exploitation
- Juvenile justice provisions

10. Maintenance:

- Spousal maintenance
- Child support calculations
- Enforcement mechanisms
- Modification procedures
- Arrears collection

11. Family Dispute Resolution:

- Mediation services
- Family courts
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Counseling services
- Legal aid availability

12. Polygamy:

- Prohibited by law
- Criminal penalties
- Void marriage consequences
- Property rights implications