

# Key changes

## Pre-marriage

**MUST:** Marriage preparation programme

### Now

When one would-be spouse is aged below 18, or both are below 21

### New

At least one would-be spouse is younger than 21

**When:** Starts on Oct 1, 2016



## Before divorce

### New

**MUST:** Two-hour parenting programme with a counsellor

**Who:** Couples with at least one child younger than 14 and they disagree on divorce matters. Later, to include couples with at least one child younger than 21.

**When:** To start by end-2016



## After divorce

### Now

Parents with children younger than 14 must attend a two-hour programme on issues such as co-parenting and self-care skills.

### New

In an ugly divorce, a judge can order a counsellor to be present and supervise when the child meets the parent without custody. This is to protect the child and prevent rows over access to him or her.

**When:** To start by end-2016



NOTE: These changes in the Women's Charter apply to non-Muslim marriages

Source: MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS