

# **Marriages and divorces**

**2009**

**Metadata**

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## Marriages and divorces, 2009

The data for marriages and divorces are in two separate files. The files are flat, ASCII, fixed format, with one line of given length per record. This format was chosen so as to make the data usable with as many statistical programs as possible, and thus accessible to as wide a range of people as possible.

Other important information can be found in the following;

Divorce Form (Form 07-04) for divorces only

Record layouts

Marriages and divorces 2009 statistical release (P0307)

Marriages and divorces 2009 CD on Stats SA's website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

## The data files

**Each file contains the following information for each variable:**

### Description of variables

**Descriptive name:** This is a short description of the variable with the variable name in brackets.

**Position of the variable:** The position of a variable within a record is recorded in the format (@xxx y.). "@xxx" indicates that the variable starts at position (i.e. column) xxx, and "y" indicates the length of the field. All variables are numeric and right justified.

**Final code list:** The range of valid values for variables. For continuous variables it only reflects the upper and lower limits.

**Missing value:** The code for "missing"/"unspecified" values is given for each variable.

**Note to users:** Additional information for further clarity on questions.

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## DATA FILE: CIVIL MARRIAGES

### Methodology

#### 1. System design

The registration of civil marriages in South Africa falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs. As the department's functions are centralised at the Head Office in Pretoria, this means that all information regarding registered marriages is first sent to Pretoria before being sent to any other government agency.

#### 2. Coverage

The target population is all civil marriages recorded in the National Population Register in 2009 by the Department of Home Affairs.

#### 3. Data Capturing

Data capturing is done by the Department of Home Affairs. Stats SA accesses the electronic data through the State Information Technology Agency (SITA).

#### 4. Confidentiality

The information remains confidential to Stats SA and will be published in aggregated form only. The Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999) prohibits the disclosure of information regarding individuals to any person concerned or the person's lawful representative.

*Name of Province (ProvinceCode)*

(@1 2.)

<b>1.</b>	<b>Province</b>
	01 = Western Cape
	02 = Eastern Cape
	03 = Northern Cape
	04 = Free State
	05 = KwaZulu-Natal
	06 = North West
	07 = Gauteng
	08 = Mpumalanga
	09 = Limpopo
	98 = Outside RSA
	99 = Unspecified

#### Note to users

This is derived from the name of province where the marriage was registered.

#### Final code list

01 = Western Cape  
02 = Eastern Cape  
03 = Northern Cape  
04 = Free State  
05 = KwaZulu-Natal  
06 = North West  
07 = Gauteng  
08 = Mpumalanga  
09 = Limpopo  
98 = Outside RSA  
99 = Unspecified

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*Month of Marriage (MarriageMonth)*

(@3 2.)

<b>2.</b>	<b>Marriage Month</b> <b>01 = January</b> <b>02 = February</b> <b>03 = March</b> <b>04 = April</b> <b>05 = May</b> <b>06 = June</b> <b>07 = July</b> <b>08 = August</b> <b>09 = September</b> <b>10 = October</b> <b>11 = November</b> <b>12 = December</b>
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**Note to users**

This question provides information about the month in which the marriage was registered.

**Final code list**

01 = January  
02 = February  
03 = March  
04 = April  
05 = May  
06 = June  
07 = July  
08 = August  
09 = September  
10 = October  
11 = November  
12 = December

*Year of Marriage (MarriageYear)*

(@5 4.)

<b>3.</b>	<b>Marriage Year</b>
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**Note to users**

This question provides information about the year in which the marriage registered.

**Final code list**

Valid code = 2009

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*Way of Solemnisation (SolemnisationCode)*

(@9 1.)

<b>4.</b>	<b>Solemnisation Code</b> 1 = Religious 2 = Civil 9 = Unspecified
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**Note to users**

This question provides information about the way the marriage was registered.

**Final code list**

1 = Religious  
2 = Civil  
9 = Unspecified

*Marital status of Man (ManStatusCode)*

(@10 1.)

<b>5.</b>	<b>Man Status</b> 1 = Bachelor 2 = Divorcee 3 = Widower 9 = Unspecified
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**Note to users**

This question provides information about the marital status of the husband before marriage.

**Final code list**

1 = Bachelor  
2 = Divorcee  
3 = Widower  
9 = Unspecified

*Marital status of Woman (WomanStatusCode)*

(@11 1.)

<b>6.</b>	<b>Woman Status</b> 1 = Spinster 2 = Divorcee 3 = Widow 9 = Unspecified
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**Note to users**

This question provides information about the marital status of the wife before marriage.

**Final code list**

1 = Spinster  
2 = Divorcee  
3 = Widow  
9 = Unspecified

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*Age of Man (ManAge)*

(@12 2.)

7.	Man Age
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**Note to users**

This question provides information about the age of the husband at the time of marriage.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 14–99

*Age of Woman (WomanAge)*

(@14 2.)

8.	Woman Age
----	-----------

**Note to users**

This provides information about the age of the wife at the time of marriage.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 13–94

*Age difference between the man and the woman (AgeDiff)*

(@16 1.)

9.	Derived variable
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**Note to users**

This provides information about the age difference between the husband and the wife.

**Final code list**

0 = Same age

1 = Man older than the woman

2 = Woman older than the man

**DATA FILE: CUSTOMARY MARRIAGES**

**Methodology**

**1. System design**

The registration of customary marriages in South Africa falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs. As the department's functions are centralised at Head Office in Pretoria, this means that all information regarding registered marriages is first sent to Pretoria before being sent to any other government agency.

**2. Coverage**

The target population is all customary marriages recorded in the National Population Register in 2009 by the Department of Home Affairs.

**3. Data Capturing**

Data capturing is done by the Department of Home Affairs. Stats SA accesses the electronic data through the State Information Technology Agency (SITA).

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#### 4. Confidentiality

The information remains confidential to Stats SA and will be published in aggregated form only. The Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999) prohibits the disclosure of information regarding individuals to any person concerned or the person's lawful representative.

*Year of Marriage (MarriageYear)*

(@1 4.)

1.	Marriage Year
----	---------------

##### Note to users

The question provides information about the year in which a couple registered their marriage.

##### Final code list

Valid code = 1935–2009

*Year of Processing (ProcessingYear)*

(@5 4.)

2.	Processing Marriage Year
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##### Note to users

The question provides information about the year in which a marriage was processed.

##### Final code list

Valid code = 2009

*Age of Man (ManAge)*

(@9 2.)

3.	Man Age
----	---------

##### Note to users

This provides information about the age of the husband at the time of marriage.

##### Final code list

Valid range: 16–90

Unspecified: 99

*Age of Woman (WomanAge)*

(@11 2.)

4.	Woman Age
----	-----------

##### Note to users

This provides information about the age of the wife at the time of marriage.

##### Final code list

Valid range: 16–89

Unspecified: 99



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*Age difference between the man and the woman (AgeDiff)*

(@13 1.)

<b>5.</b>	<b>Derived variable</b>
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#### **Note to users**

This provides information about the age difference between the husband and the wife.

#### **Final code list**

0 = Same age

1 = Man older than the woman

2 = Woman older than the man

### **DATA FILE: CIVIL UNIONS**

#### **Methodology**

##### **1. System design**

The registration of civil unions in South Africa falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs. As the department's functions are centralised at Head Office in Pretoria, this means that all information regarding registered marriages is first sent to Pretoria before being sent to any other government agency.

##### **2. Coverage**

The target population is all civil unions recorded in the National Population Register in 2009 by the Department of Home Affairs.

##### **3. Data Capturing**

Data capturing is done by the Department of Home Affairs. Stats SA accesses the electronic data through the State Information Technology Agency (SITA).

##### **4. Confidentiality**

The information remains confidential to Stats SA and will be published in aggregated form only. The Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999) prohibits the disclosure of information regarding individuals to any person concerned or his lawful representative.

*Name of Province (ProvinceCode)*

(@1 2.)

<b>1.</b>	<b>Province</b> 01 = Western Cape 02 = Eastern Cape 03 = Northern Cape 04 = Free State 05 = KwaZulu-Natal 06 = North West 07 = Gauteng 08 = Mpumalanga 09 = Limpopo 98 = Outside RSA
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#### **Note to users**

This is derived from the name of province where the marriage was registered.

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**Final code list**

01 = Western Cape  
02 = Eastern Cape  
03 = Northern Cape  
04 = Free State  
05 = KwaZulu-Natal  
06 = North West  
07 = Gauteng  
08 = Mpumalanga  
09 = Limpopo  
98 = Outside RSA

*Month of Marriage (MarriageMonth)*

(@3 2.)

<b>2.</b>	<b>Marriage Month</b>
	<b>01 = January</b>
	<b>02 = February</b>
	<b>03 = March</b>
	<b>04 = April</b>
	<b>05 = May</b>
	<b>06 = June</b>
	<b>07 = July</b>
	<b>08 = August</b>
	<b>09 = September</b>
	<b>10 = October</b>
	<b>11 = November</b>
	<b>12 = December</b>

**Note to users**

This question provides information about the month in which the marriage was registered.

**Final code list**

01 = January  
02 = February  
03 = March  
04 = April  
05 = May  
06 = June  
07 = July  
08 = August  
09 = September  
10 = October  
11 = November  
12 = December

---

*Year of Marriage (MarriageYear)*

(@5 2.)

3.	Marriage Year
----	---------------

**Note to users**

The question provides information about the year in which the marriage was registered.

**Final code list**

Valid code = 2009

*Age of Spouse1 (Spouse1Age)*

(@7 2.)

4.	Spouse1 Age
----	-------------

**Note to users**

This provides information about the age of spouse 1 at the time of union.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 19–83

*Age of Spouse2 (Spouse2Age)*

(@9 2.)

5.	Spouse2 Age
----	-------------

**Note to users**

This provides information about the age of spouse 2 at the time of union.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 19–84

**DATA FILE: DIVORCES**

**Methodology**

**1. Form design**

The divorce form (Form 07-04) is administered by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). The form was designed in collaboration with stakeholders and other role players, such as the Department of Home Affairs, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development Office of the Family Advocate, Department of Social Development, religious leaders, and other interested organisations and institutions.

The electronic version of Form 07-04 is deposited with each of the following courts: Grahamstown, Kimberley, Port Elizabeth, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Ferreirasdorp Central, North Eastern Durban, and King Williams Town Southern Divorce Court.

**2. Coverage**

The divorce data cover civil marriages that were granted divorce in 2009 by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

**3. Data capturing**

Upon receipt of the forms at Stats SA, they are counted and sorted (into bundles) according to the different courts and months of the year, and captured.

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#### 4. Confidentiality

The information remains confidential to Stats SA and will be published in aggregated form only. The Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999) prohibits the disclosure of information regarding individuals to any person concerned or the person's lawful representative.

*Population group of husband (ManRaceCode)*

(@1 1.)

<b>1.</b>	<b>The population group of the husband</b> 1 = African/Black 2 = Coloured 3 = Indian/Asian 4 = White 5 = Mixed 9 = Unspecified
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##### Note to users

This question is asked to determine the population group of the husband.

##### Final code list

1 = African/Black  
2 = Coloured  
3 = Indian/Asian  
4 = White  
5 = Mixed  
9 = Unspecified

*Population group of wife (WomanRaceCode)*

(@2 1.)

<b>2.</b>	<b>The population group of the wife</b> 1 = African/Black 2 = Coloured 3 = Indian/Asian 4 = White 5 = Mixed 9 = Unspecified
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##### Note to users

This question is asked to determine the population group of the wife.

##### Final code list

1 = African/Black  
2 = Coloured  
3 = Indian/Asian  
4 = White  
5 = Mixed  
9 = Unspecified

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*Population group of couple (CoupleRaceCode)*

(@3 1.)

<b>3.</b>	<b>Derived variable</b>
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**Note to users**

This is to determine whether the divorcing couple is in a mixed-race marriage. The population groups of both the husband and the wife are compared to determine the category. If the population group of the husband and the population group of the wife differ, then the couple is classified as being in a mixed-race marriage.

**Final code list**

- 1 = African/Black
- 2 = Coloured
- 3 = Indian/Asian
- 4 = White
- 5 = Mixed
- 9 = Unspecified

*Occupation code of husband (ManOccCode)*

(@4 2.)

<b>4.</b>	<b>Husband's occupation at the time of divorce</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations</li><li>02 = Managers and administrators</li><li>03 = Clerical and sales occupations</li><li>04 = Transport, delivery and communications</li><li>05 = Service occupations</li><li>06 = Farming and related occupations</li><li>07 = Artisans, apprentice and related occupations</li><li>08 = Production foreman, mine and quarry workers</li><li>09 = Unspecified</li><li>10 = Not economically active</li></ul>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each husband. It seeks to find out the occupation of the husband at the time of divorce.

**Final code list**

- 01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations
- 02 = Managers and administrators
- 03 = Clerical and sales occupations
- 04 = Transport, delivery and communications
- 05 = Service occupations
- 06 = Farming and related occupations
- 07 = Artisans, apprentice and related occupations
- 08 = Production foreman, mine and quarry workers
- 09 = Unspecified
- 10 = Not economically active

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*Occupation code of wife (WomanOccCode)*

(@6 2.)

<b>5.</b>	<b>Wife's occupation at the time of divorce</b> 01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations 02 = Managers and administrators 03 = Clerical and sales occupations 04 = Transport, delivery and communications 05 = Service occupations 06 = Farming and related occupations 07 = Artisans, apprentice and related occupations 08 = Production foreman, mine and quarry workers 09 = Unspecified 10 = Not economically active
-----------	--

**Note to users**

This question is asked for each wife. It seeks to find out the occupation of the wife at the time of divorce.

**Final code list**

01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations  
02 = Managers and administrators  
03 = Clerical and sales occupations  
04 = Transport, delivery and communications  
05 = Service occupations  
06 = Farming and related occupations  
07 = Artisans, apprentice and related occupations  
08 = Production foreman, mine and quarry workers  
09 = Unspecified  
10 = Not economically active

*Sex code of the plaintiff (PlaintiffSexCode)*

(@8 1.)

<b>6.</b>	<b>Sex of the plaintiff</b> 1 = Male 2 = Female 3 = Unspecified
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**Note to users**

This provides information about the sex of the plaintiff. It seeks to find out who filed for the divorce (the husband or the wife).

**Final code list**

1 = Male  
2 = Female  
9= Unspecified

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*Plaintiff occupation (PlaintiffOccupationCode)*

(@9 2.)

<b>7.</b>	<b>Plaintiff occupation</b> 01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations 02 = Managers and administrators 03 = Clerical and sales occupations 04 = Transport, delivery and communications 05 = Service occupations 06 = Farming and related occupations 07 = Artisans, apprentice and related occupations 08 = Production foreman, mine and quarry workers 09 = Unspecified 10 = Not economically active
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for the plaintiff. It seeks to find out the occupation of the plaintiff.

**Final code list**

01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations  
02 = Managers and administrators  
03 = Clerical and sale occupations  
04 = Transport, delivery and communications  
05 = Service occupations  
06 = Farming and related occupations  
07 = Artisans, apprentice and related occupations  
08 = Production foreman, mine and quarry worker  
09 = Unspecified  
10 = Not economically active

*Marital status of man (ManMarStatusCode)*

(@11 1.)

<b>8.</b>	<b>Husband's marital status at the time of marriage</b> 1 = Bachelor 2 = Widower 3 = Divorcee 4 = Married 9 = Unspecified
-----------	--

**Note to users**

This question is asked for each husband. It seeks to find out the husband's marital status at the time of marriage; of particular interest is whether the previous marriage ended in divorce, if husband was previously married.

**Final code list**

1 = Bachelor  
2 = Widower  
3 = Divorcee  
4 = Married  
9 = Unspecified

---

*Wife marital status at the time of marriage (WomanMarStatusCode)*

(@12 1.)

<b>9.</b>	<b>Wife's marital status at the time of marriage</b> 1 = Spinster 2 = Widow 3 = Divorcee 9 = Unspecified
-----------	--

**Note to users**

This question is asked for each wife. It seeks to find out the wife's marital status at the time of marriage; of particular interest is whether the previous marriage ended in divorce, if wife was previously married.

**Final code list**

1 = Spinster  
2 = Widow  
3 = Divorcee  
9 = Unspecified

*Number of times husband married (ManNoTimesMarried)*

(@13 1.)

<b>10.</b>	<b>Number of times husband has married</b>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each husband. It seeks to find out the number of times (including the current marriage) the husband has married.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 1–3  
4+ = Four to ten  
9 = Unspecified

*Number of times married (WomanNoTimesMarried)*

(@14 1.)

<b>11.</b>	<b>Number of times wife has married</b>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each wife. It seeks to find out the number of times (including the current marriage) the wife has married.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 1–3  
4+ = Four to nine  
9 = Unspecified



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*Age of husband at time of divorce (ManAge)*

(@15 2.)

<b>12.</b>	<b>Age of husband</b>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each husband. It seeks to find out the age of the husband at the time of divorce.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 19–94

Unspecified: 99

*Age of wife at time of divorce (WomanAge)*

(@17 2.)

<b>13.</b>	<b>Age of wife</b>
------------	--------------------

**Note to users**

This question is asked for each wife. It seeks to find out the age of the wife at the time of divorce.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 16–85

Unspecified: 99

*Present marriage solemnised (SolemnisationCode)*

(@19 1.)

<b>14.</b>	<b>Type of solemnisation of the present marriage</b> 1 = Religious 2 = Civil 9 = Unspecified
------------	---

**Note to users**

This question is asked for the plaintiff. It seeks to find out how the current marriage was registered.

**Final code list**

1 = Religious

2 = Civil

9 = Unspecified

*Matrimonial property system (MarriageTypeCode)*

(@20 1.)

<b>15.</b>	<b>Matrimonial property system</b> 1 = With antenuptual contract 2 = Without antenuptual contract 3 = In community of property 4 = Out of community of property 5 = Out of community of property (excluding accrual system) 6 = Out of community of property (including accrual system) 7 = Other 9 = Unspecified
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for the plaintiff. It seeks to find out the type of matrimonial property contract the couple entered into at the time of marriage.

**Final code list**

- 1 = With antenuptual contract
- 2 = Without antenuptual contract
- 3 = In community of property
- 4 = Out of community of property
- 5 = Out of community of property (excluding accrual system)
- 6 = Out of community of property (including accrual system)
- 7 = Other
- 9 = Unspecified

*Number of minor children involved (NoOfChildren)*

(@21 2.)

<b>16.</b>	<b>Number of minor children involved</b>
------------	--

**Note to users**

This question is asked for the plaintiff. It seeks to determine the number of minor children (under 18 years) out of this marriage (currently the dissolved).

**Final code list**

Valid range: 00–07

Unspecified: 99

*Month of marriage (MarriageMonth)*

(@23 2.)

<b>17.</b>	<b>Month of the marriage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>01 = January</li><li>02 = February</li><li>03 = March</li><li>04 = April</li><li>05 = May</li><li>06 = June</li><li>07 = July</li><li>08 = August</li><li>09 = September</li><li>10 = October</li><li>11 = November</li><li>12 = December</li><li>99 = Unspecified</li></ul>
------------	---

**Note to users**

This question is asked for the plaintiff. It seeks to find out the month in which the marriage took place.

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**Final code list**

01 = January  
02 = February  
03 = March  
04 = April  
05 = May  
06 = June  
07 = July  
08 = August  
09 = September  
10 = October  
11 = November  
12 = December  
99 = Unspecified

*Year of marriage (MarriageYear)*

(@25 4.)

<b>18.</b>	<b>Year of the marriage</b>
------------	-----------------------------

**Note to users**

This question provides information about the year in which the marriage officer registered the marriage.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 1922–2009

Unspecified: 9999

*Month of separation (SeparationMonth)*

(@29 2.)

<b>19.</b>	<b>Separation month</b> 01 = January 02 = February 03 = March 04 = April 05 = May 06 = June 07 = July 08 = August 09 = September 10 = October 11 = November 12 = December 99 = Unspecified
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for the plaintiff. It seeks to find out the date of separation.

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**Final code list**

01 = January  
02 = February  
03 = March  
04 = April  
05 = May  
06 = June  
07 = July  
08 = August  
09 = September  
10 = October  
11 = November  
12 = December  
99 = Unspecified

*Year of separation (SeparationYear)*

(@31 4.)

<b>20.</b>	<b>Year of the separation</b>
------------	-------------------------------

**Note to users**

This question is asked for the plaintiff. It seeks to find out the year in which the couple separated.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 1965–2009

Unspecified: 9999

*Month of divorce (DivorceMonth)*

(@35 2.)

<b>21.</b>	<b>Month of the divorce</b> 01 = January 02 = February 03 = March 04 = April 05 = May 06 = June 07 = July 08 = August 09 = September 10 = October 11 = November 12 = December
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**Note to users**

This information is completed by the registrar. It seeks to find out the month in which the decree was issued.

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**Final code list**

01 = January  
02 = February  
03 = March  
04 = April  
05 = May  
06 = June  
07 = July  
08 = August  
09 = September  
10 = October  
11 = November  
12 = December

*Year of divorce (DivorceYear)*

(@37 4.)

<b>22.</b>	<b>Year of the divorce</b>
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**Note to users**

This information is completed by the registrar. It seeks to find out the year in which the decree was issued.

**Final code list**

Valid code: 2009

*Duration of marriage (DurationOfMarriage)*

(@41 2.)

<b>23.</b>	<b>Derived variable</b>
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**Note to users**

This is to determine the number of years a couple have been married.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 0–56

Unspecified: 99