

Jai Shri Mataji

Sahaja Marriages

Information for National & Local Co-ordinators / Approvers



International Marriage Committee

17th March 2021

GENERAL INFORMATION

Sahaja Marriages are a sacred ceremony based on Divine principles taught by Our Divine Mother, which have a deep impact on people's lives and should be always considered with utmost attention and care.

Coordinators, council members, local representatives who have the task of counselling the applicant & signing application forms should be aware of both the process and the Principles and Protocols of Sahaja Marriages, contained in a separate document. Such document provides details about Background and Principles, What is Sahaja Marriage, The International Marriage Committee (with list of members), How to Apply, Matching and Marriage Protocol, Marriage Vows.

The form for applicants, for remarriages and the leader's feedback form are provided separately in pdf format.

The updated documents are circulated by the Marriage Committee to all coordinators, along with blank application forms, whenever the IMC announces the event of such a ceremony.

For any further information or clarification on the content of this document please contact the IMC through the **new** official email: **applications@sahajamarriages.org**.

DISTRIBUTION OF FORMS

Application forms are circulated at least once a year to all coordinators. The coordinators are requested to promptly make the necessary announcements in all the centres for all the interested applicants to fill the latest circulated application forms and ensure that every interested person receives them.

DISCUSSION WITH APPLICANTS

The local/national coordinator or local marriage coordinators/representatives/delegates, as defined in the country, has the responsibility to personally interact with each candidate and provide advice and guidelines to ensure that there is a heartfelt understanding of the deep spiritual and life commitment, recognition of Shri Mataji, acceptance of the Sahaja Marriage Maryadas and readiness for a Sahaja marriage.

The coordinator should ensure the applicant has been practicing Sahaja Yoga for **at least 2 years**, regularly attending a Centre and is participating in Sahaja Yoga programmes/activities in and around the Centre/City/Online and has attained the Sahaja maturity & dedication.

The coordinator should ensure the applicant **has read the Protocol document, the Marriage Vows, and understands the commitment** they are going to make.

It has been found that some applicants after getting the matching announcement decide to refuse the match due to reasons such as horoscope, previous religious background, race, food preference, physical appearance etc. The Coordinator while counselling shall ensure that the applicant's top-most priority and focus shall be rooted in Mother's teachings & guidance, not mundane notions, a-sahaj convictions or outside conditionings.

CHECKING THE APPLICANT'S FORM

The national/local co-ordinator must check thoroughly the data/information filled in by the candidate, as he/she will have to validate and also have responsibility of the contents of the application. The coordinator shall ensure the information filled in by the applicant is clear especially where a clear yes/no answer is required; also confirming that contact details, applicant's colour photograph are correct and clear. IMC will revert to candidate and coordinator in case the information provided is not clear.

Forms only partially filled or not signed by the applicant and the coordinator will not be considered for matching and the applicant will be asked to complete the forms if time permits.

Some important fields to verify on the applicant forms are the following:

- Date of birth/age, height, weight, education, annual income (primarily for boys but also girls), previous relationships: these are information for which Shri Mataji provided specific inputs to the marriage team for the purpose of matching and they should be correct
- Center/City collective where applicant is doing Sahaja Yoga: Shri Mataji suggested to avoid matching people from the same centre/city, as they would feel more to be part of a Sahaja family where purity should be maintained
- Contact details: should be written clearly, as they are used for communications about matches (especially email)

- Illnesses: these should be clearly stated as we might need to further investigate with doctors about seriousness of the illness and inform matched applicants in case
- Legally free to marry: yogis/nis who aren't legally free to marry will not be considered in the matching process
- Presence for the Ceremony: yogis/nis coming to the Ceremony will be matched with other yogis/nis coming to allow the marriages to proceed. If no match is found in that group, the remaining yogis/nis will be matched with the remaining yogis/nis (coming or not) for engagement and further marriage.
- Additional commitments/requirements to be specified (we receive several refusals for these reasons without prior information provided on such aspects) e.g.:
 - o If the yogi/ni has been participating to the Sahaja activities of a different centre in the past where he feels to be part of the family and wishes to avoid matching, they should say so
 - o If the yogi/ni has some specific motivated conditions for the marriage, they should say so clearly

If it is found that an applicant has filled purposely some wrong/false information or hidden important information to mislead the IMC in the process, the coordinator will be informed, and the application will be withdrawn.

LEADER'S FEEDBACK FORM

The leader's form should be filled by the coordinator only, not by the applicant, after an interview with the applicant.

The co-ordinator will finally provide a true and unbiased recommendation about the applicant including an overall rating and sign both the forms. The contents and the information given by the coordinator shall be kept confidential by all including the coordinator themselves and the IMC.

The co-ordinator should highlight situations where individuals are not established in Sahaja Yoga or have undisclosed health issues or income/economic issue or there are specific personal issues such as divorce etc. In cases where the yogi/yogini is new to the collective, the co-ordinator needs to collect information from co-ordinator of other centres the yogi/ni was attending previously.

Some important fields to fill properly on the leader forms are the following:

- Financial sustainability: the same income in different country might indicate very different financial situations. It is advisable that boys that apply for marriage should be ready to start a family and support it economically. We need a local evaluation of the income to understand the situation in each case.
- Readiness for Sahaja Marriage: coordinator should evaluate readiness for a Sahaja Marriage, which has a specific Sahaja meaning, purpose and implications (see protocol document & read the vows).
- Family conditionings: please evaluate if there will be family involvement on the decision and specific conditions the applicant or the family puts on marriage due to local/cultural conditions which are not strictly Sahaja guidelines
- Overall grading: it is not linked to readiness for marriage, it is an evaluation overall of the Sahaja aspects of the person. An 'A' should be given to devoted, dedicated, deep, active, earnest, collective yogis. A 'D' is instead a sign of a person who is not really doing Sahaja Yoga with full understanding, commitment and might not entirely understand the meaning of Sahaja marriage. There could be 'A' yogis who are not ready to marry or vice-versa. The IMC will try and avoid matching half-baked yogis who are just interested in finding a partner without understanding and following the guidelines and Teachings of Shri Mataji. Where evaluations show unclear or difficult situations, the IMC will take vibrations before considering the applicant for marriage

If the interview and signature has been done by a local coordinator, the form will need to be counter-signed by the country coordinator or country delegate for marriages (Approvers). The filled application form and leader form for each applicant should be sent by the chosen coordinator only and not by the applicant, as described in the respective chapter of this document.

For remarriages there is no need of leader's feedback form but it is important to know the circumstances (e.g. self-matches in Sahaja is not accepted) and date of the first marriage to determine whether a Sahaj remarriage is possible.

An appropriate consent is collected on the form for privacy reasons, to allow transmission and sharing of personal data between IMC and local Approvers.

APPROVED SIGNATORIES

The country coordinators should inform IMC in case of approved national signatories i.e. country delegates for marriages who can sign and forward applications to IMC.

In case the IMC receives forms from unknown signatories or from individual applicants, it will revert to national signatories to validate.

In cases where the national collectives are split into different groups with no mutual co-operation, the IMC is not in the position to take a stand of acknowledging the authority or lack of authority of conflicting groups. The IMC invites dissenting group to unite in the process of evaluation of applicants in the spirit of brotherly love and perform a joint evaluation process.

Where this is not possible, the IMC will validate the existence and relevance of such situation with the country coordinators council or Central Committee, and in case of a positive acknowledgement received, IMC will strive to find signatories and coordinators, possibly yogis/nis recognised by the elders, who can represent objectively the applicants from both sides. Any decision taken by the Marriage Committee in such respect does not have any implication whatsoever for the acceptance/non acceptance of dissenting groups by the global Sahaja family.

If such situations have not been previously acknowledged by the country coordinators council or central committee and communicated to the IMC, only the forms signed by the country coordinator / council members will be accepted.

In all these cases, the IMC will of course exert due vigilance to make sure that all information is correct, and the applicant is suited for a Sahaja marriage so that the unsuspecting potential partner is not at risks.

SENDING TO THE COMMITTEE

The Co-ordinator shall ensure that the filled and complete forms are emailed/sent **before the 20th June 2021** to the email address provided above. The forms should be collected and sent by country coordinators, country delegate for marriages or local IMC members, and not by individual applicants.

The Co-ordinator shall avoid sending the application forms of unmarried self-matched couples for marriage/re-marriage.

In case the applicant or coordinator needs to communicate changes to the information provided, they can contact the same addresses provided (e.g. applicant declared he/she could come but cannot come any more to the ceremony due to impediments).

Announcements will take place on the 22nd July just before the Guru Puja weekend (to be confirmed).

Marriages will take place (if possible) on the 5th of September in Cabella Ligure.

Matched couples from previous years, who are willing to marry, must arrange for timely visas (if required) to reach the marriage venue on time. They should inform the IMC about their intention to marry so that the host country can arrange the required inventories.

IMC will maintain complete confidentiality about all the information provided by applicants and co-ordinators and invites all local and national coordinators to take every step so that such information is managed confidentially throughout the local data collection process in their own countries.

AFTER THE CEREMONY

The married couples are requested to adhere to the legal requirements such as registration of marriage (within the specified time limit) of the resident country where they would continue to live. They should adhere to the Sahaja protocols as per the Teachings of our Divine Mother.

Engaged couples should confirm within two months whether they wish to proceed with marriage or not to the marriages email address.

Divorce in Sahaja Yoga is to be avoided by all means by both husband & wife, as Shri Mataji has indicated. Divorce situation is often not good, unhealthy, unhappy and can become ugly. However, in extreme unavoidable cases, married couples can divorce and in that case they (or their coordinators) should send a message to the IMC. In case there is specific information that should be known to the marriage committee, this should be written without hesitation, so that IMC may be aware of it for potential future matching of the divorcees.

Cases of misbehaviour on the part of husband and/or wife reported to the IMC will be forwarded to national/local signatories for any local action to be decided.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Marriage Ceremony is extremely important for the growth our Sahaja collectivity, and it is worth giving due attention and understanding to the duties and commitment of applicants & the importance and responsibility of the signing leader. The success of marriages lies strongly in the good will and true dedication and surrender of individual yogis and yoginis, and this needs to be ascertained properly throughout the process.

After marriages, the local collectives should be invited by the coordinator to discreetly look after and support the newly married couples so that they can feel welcome and integrated into the collective, especially when one spouse is changing countries and cultures. It can always help to reach out and let them know the Sahaja family is there for them.

As we write in the Principles and Protocol document, which follows, and which we strongly invite you to read or re-read, spiritual growth of the individuals, the family and the collective is triggered by a successful Sahaja Marriage which spreads happiness and auspiciousness. A marriage expressing subtle qualities such as innocence, benevolence, love, joy, sweetness, generosity, and fondness for others will support the establishment of Mother's vision, for our world.

May we all be pure instruments of Shri Mataji's Divine Will.

Jai Shri Mataji
International Marriage Committee