



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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The Board		8 April 2004
About the Board	RDC42556.FE	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Democratic Republic of Congo: Whether a customary marriage can take place in the absence of one of the spouses (April 2004)	
Employment	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa	
Legal and Policy		
References	A researcher and legal advisor at a Congolese women's rights organization in Kinshasa called <i>Éveil de la femme</i> provided the following information during a 7 April 2004 telephone interview.	
Publications		
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division	In the Democratic Republic of Congo (RDC), the absence of one of the spouses does not prevent the celebration of a customary or civil marriage. Religious marriages, however, always require the physical presence of both spouses. In the case of a customary or civil wedding, a family member, such as a brother, uncle or male cousin for the groom, or a sister, aunt or female cousin for the bride, may stand in for the missing spouse. The representative of <i>Éveil de la femme</i> said that some men have married by proxy while they were abroad.	
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions		
Forms		
Statistics	During an 8 April 2004 telephone interview, the permanent secretary of the National Committee for Women in Development (Comité national Femme et Développement, CONAFED), a Congolese women's organization, stated that customary or civil marriages by proxy are common in the RDC. She explained that a friend or family member can stand in for one of the spouses (CONAFED 8 Apr. 2004).	
Research		
Research Program		
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets	This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.	
Responses to Information Requests		
Recent Research	<u>References</u>	
Media Centre		
News	Comité national Femme et Développement (CONAFED), Kinshasa. 8 April 2004. Telephone interview with the permanent secretary.	
Information Sheets		
Media Relations	<i>Éveil de la femme</i> , Kinshasa. 7 April 2004. Telephone interview with a researcher and legal advisor.	
	<u>Additional Sources Consulted</u>	
Proactive Disclosure		

Publications: Resource Centre country file.

Internet sites, including: Africatime, AllAfrica, Dialog, Digitalcongo.net, European Country of Origin Information Network, FIDH.

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