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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 1541**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 28 MAY 2021**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NUMBER: 15 - 2021**

**1541. Ms L H Arries (EFF) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

Whether her department considers marital status when processing grant applications; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what is the impact of the various marriage regimes in processing grant applications? NW1744E

**REPLY:**

SASSA does consider the marital status when assessing applications for any social grant. Proof of spousal relationship is required when applying for any social grant. In terms of Regulation 18(2) to the Social Assistance Act, the income of an applicant and his/her spouse must be taken into account irrespective of whether the couple is married in or out of community of property under the Marriage Act, or any provisions contained in an ante-nuptial contract.

Spouse is defined for the purposes of social grant applications as “a person who is the spouse or partner of a person in accordance with the Marriage Act, 1961 (Act no 25 of 1961), the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act No 120 of 1998) or the Civil Union Act, 2006 (Act no 17 of 2006 or the tenets of any Asiatic religion…” This therefore covers all the marriage regimes applicable in South Africa.