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Subject: Type of marriage: how to classify customary/traditional marriage in V501  
Posted by [RebeccaCai](#) on Wed, 20 Nov 2019 16:03:04 GMT

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I'm working with the 2016 South Africa DHS-VII. It is common and legally recognized (in the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act) in South Africa to have "customary" or "traditional" marriages not conducted by a civil authority. My question is, does anybody know under which marital status in V501 ("married" or "living with a partner as if married") customary marriages are classified? Or perhaps where I can find enumerator instructions that would clarify?

I have compared the DHS composition with other South Africa representative sample that differentiate between civil and customary marriages, and circumstantial evidence suggests that the "married" category includes customary marriages. But I hope to receive official confirmation of this.