# Kichmond, Virginia Circuit Court Clerk's Office

BEVILL M. DEAN, CLERK

### **Who May Marry in Virginia**

The minimum age for marriage in Virginia is 16 years for both bride and groom. If either party is under 18, consent to the marriage must be given in person by the father, mother or legal guardian of the minor. The parent or legal guardian must present his or her driver's license or comparable photo I.D. and the minor must present a full-length birth certificate. Virginia law prohibits marriage by parties under 16 except under certain circumstances. Please contact the Clerk's Office for further information.

### **Obtaining a Marriage License**

Marriage licenses are issued from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Licenses are issued regardless of the applicants' residence as long as the marriage will take place in Virginia.

Both parties, bride and groom, must be present and must present a photo I.D.

The marriage license fee is \$30.00. Payment must be cash. Debit and credit cards are not accepted for the payment of such fees.

You may purchase a certified copy of the marriage license for a fee of \$2.50. Blood tests are not required.

The marriage license is valid for 60 days. If the marriage does not take place within 60 days from the date the license was issued, a new license must be issued and additional fees must be tendered. There is no provision for a refund.

If either the bride or groom is divorced, the date of the final divorce decree is required.

# **After the Wedding**

The marriage celebrant returns the executed marriage license to the Clerk's Office for permanent retention.

# **Changing the Bride's Name After Marriage**

Contact the Social Security Administration in order to obtain information regarding requirements for changing bride's name.

# **Obtaining a Copy of a Marriage License**

Certified copies are \$2.50 each and are available by written request or in the Clerk's Office during regular business hours. Payment may be made by cash, check or money order (payable to Bevill M. Dean, Clerk). Debit and credit cards are not accepted for the payment of such fees.

For marriage licenses issued between July 1, 1997 and June 30, 2001, Virginia law requires that the Clerk's Office obtain permission from the bride or groom before providing a copy to any party. Written requests for certified copies of a marriage license should include the following: groom's name, bride's maiden name, date of marriage, a check or money order for \$2.50 made payable to Bevill M. Dean, Clerk.

For copies of licenses issued prior to July 1, 1997 or after June 30, 2001, permission is not required of the bride and groom. Written requests for certified copies should include the following: groom's name, bride's maiden name, date of marriage and a check or money order for \$2.50 made payable to Bevill M. Dean, Clerk.

# **Minister Authorization to Perform Marriages**

The Clerk's Office may authorize certain ministers to perform marriage ceremonies, provided that the minister meets the requirements of § 20-23 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. Out-of-state ministers may be authorized for a one-time ceremony, provided the ceremony will take place in Virginia.

Before visiting the Clerk's Office to request authorization, please contact the office by phone at 804-646-6506 to confirm the process to follow.

# **City of Richmond Circuit Court Marriage**

https://sharepoint.richmondgov.com/circuitcourt/marriage/default.aspx

### **Marriage License Application for the Bride**

https://sharepoint.richmondgov.com/circuitcourt/Lists/Forms/ Attachments/2/WEB\_Bride.pdf

### **Marriage License Application for the Groom**

https://sharepoint.richmondgov.com/circuitcourt/Lists/Forms/Attachments/1/WEB Groom.pdf

### **Social Security Infomation on Changing Brides Name**

http://www.socialsecurity.gov/women/