

# Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act

## changes effective June 1, 2014

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Effective June 1, 2014 the Sangamon County Clerk's office will offer marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The information below will help guide you through the process and answer your questions.

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### **How do we convert our civil union to a marriage?**

Both parties must come to the office with valid ID to apply for a conversion. County Clerk employees will pull your civil union information and transfer to the marriage application.

### **Is there a fee to convert my civil union license to a marriage license?**

No. The fee is waived when converting from a civil union to a marriage.

### **Can I keep the original date of civil union when I convert to a marriage?**

Yes. You have the option to convert your civil union to a marriage and keep the original date of civil union for a period of 1 year from June 1, 2014.

### **Can I choose to have a new ceremony date when converting to a marriage? If so, what are the requirements?**

Yes. You can have a new ceremony with a different date than the civil union. There is no time frame to convert from a civil union to a marriage when you choose to have a new ceremony with a new date. The \$75 application fee will be waived.

### **When can I obtain a certified copy of my new marriage license? Is there a fee for a certified copy?**

You may purchase a certified copy of your marriage license as soon as it is filed in the office. There is a \$25 fee for the 1<sup>st</sup> copy and \$7 for each additional copy when purchased at the same time. When your license is converted, you may purchase a certified copy the same day it is converted.

### **Can I still purchase certified copies of my civil union license when I have converted to a marriage license?**

Yes. You may still purchase certified copies of the original civil union license.

### **Are we required to convert our civil union to a marriage?**

No. Your civil union will still be considered legal and valid; however, if you do convert from a civil union to a marriage, you shall no longer be considered in a civil union.

**We obtained our civil union in another county; can we convert it to a marriage in Sangamon County?**

Yes, the fee is waived no matter where in Illinois you received your civil union. You **must** bring in a **certified** copy of your civil union license if it occurred in another county.

**We were already married in another state that allows same-sex marriages. Do we need to get another license in Illinois or have a ceremony in Illinois?**

No. Effective June 1, 2014, out of state same-sex marriages will be recognized as a marriage in Illinois.

**I am an out of state resident. If I get a marriage license in Illinois, will it be recognized in the state I reside if that state does not recognize same-sex marriages?**

Illinois law states no marriage shall be contracted in this state by a party residing and intending to continue to reside in another state or jurisdiction if such marriage would be void if contracted in such other state or jurisdiction, and every marriage celebrated in this state in violation of this provision shall be null and void.

**When can we get a copy of our marriage certificate?**

Certified marriage certificates are not automatically sent to couples. If you have a marriage ceremony, your officiant completes and signs the marriage license and returns it to the Clerk's office. The Clerk's office then records your marriage and can issue a certified copy. The turnaround time is typically a week – call in advance to see if your license has been returned. If you convert your civil union to a marriage, certified copies will be available immediately. Cost is \$25 and \$7 for each additional certified copy.

**Who can officiate a marriage?**

An officiant can be a judge, a religious leader or an individual who is ordained by a non-denominational organization.

**Can we get married in a church, synagogue or other house of worship?**

According to the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness law, places of worship and any facility operated by a religious group or denomination have the discretion on whether or not to solemnize same-sex marriages.

**How do I change my name after I get married?**

You may purchase a certified copy of the marriage license from the County Clerk's Office. Take the certified copy to the Secretary of State to change your name on your driver's license/State ID and to the Social Security Administration to change your name on your social security card

**What are the requirements to apply for a same-sex marriage license when we have never had a civil union?**

- Ceremony must be held in Sangamon County.
- Both parties must be present with valid identification. Including: valid driver's license, State issued ID, US Passport or Military ID.
- You must apply for the marriage license at least one day in advance and no more than 60 days in advance.
- The fee is \$75.00. We accept cash, check, money order, MasterCard and Discover.
- You may choose to be married by a Judge in the county building. The fee is \$10.00 and is payable to the Circuit Clerk's office, Room 405. You must call 753-6366 to make an appointment with a judge. You may also choose to get married outside of the county building by a minister or priest.