

**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
OF BUCKS COUNTY
OFFICE
OF
COURT ADMINISTRATOR
DOYLESTOWN, PA 18901**

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The information provided herein is for case flow and calendar management purposes only. It does not replace or supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law or rules of court. This sheet will not be used as a source for making docket entries except to note the type of action commenced. This is not a substitute from documents for commencement of actions

Case No. 0801620

PLAINTIFFS vs. DEFENDANTS
Jason B. O'Neill and Jennifer R. O'Neill

Attorney Name & ID #

Attorney Name & ID #

NATURE OF SUIT

(Check one classification only)

ASSUMPSIT (Contracts)

- Mechanics Lien 057
- Employment 525
- Insurance 526
- No-Fault Insurance 527
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- Petition

RECEIVED
 08 FEB 14 PM 3:59
 SHERIFFS DEPT.
 BUCKS CO., PA.

PROTHONOTARY
 OF BUCKS COUNTY
 2008 FEB 14 P 3:22
RECEIVED

DEMAND over \$50,000
 under \$50,000
 Not Applicable

JURY DEMAND
 (Check only if demanded in Complaint.)
 Yes No

THIS FORM SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE PROTHONOTARY'S OFFICE

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BUCKS COUNTY
CIVIL DIVISION

Plaintiff *In Re Marriage of*
vs. *Jason B. O'Neill and*
Jennifer R. O'Neill

No. 0801620
Declaratory Judgment
Form of Action
Complaint

Defendant

NOTICE

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICES SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

Bucks County Bar Association
135 East State Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
Phone (215) 348-9413, 1-800-479-8585
www.bucksbar.org

PA Bar Association: www.pabar.org

Joshua Kaplowitz
Attorney for plaintiffs

Attorney I.D. # 206606
Please type or print name and address

Joshua Kaplowitz
Drinker Biddle + Reath LLP
One Logan Square
Philadelphia, PA 19103

2008 FEB 14 3:22
PROTON
BUCKS COUNTY

RECEIVED

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Philadelphia, PA 19106
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Attorneys for Plaintiffs Jason B. O'Neill and Jennifer R. O'Neill

In re Marriage of	:	IN THE COURT OF
	:	COMMON PLEAS
JASON B. O'NEILL	:	OF BUCKS COUNTY
	:	
and	:	
	:	
JENNIFER R. O'NEILL	:	DOCKET No. <u>0801620</u>
	:	
Plaintiffs.	:	CIVIL ACTION -
	:	DECLARATORY
	:	JUDGMENT

**COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT TO CONFIRM THE
VALIDITY OF MARRIAGE PURSUANT TO PA CONS. STAT. § 3306**

Plaintiffs Jason B. O'Neill and Jennifer R. O'Neill ("Plaintiffs"), by and through their undersigned attorneys, bring this action pursuant to 23 PA. CONS. STAT. § 3306, seeking a declaration that their marriage is valid under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JURISDICTION

1. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 42 PA. CONS. STAT. § 931 and 23 PA. CONS. STAT. § 3306, and personal jurisdiction over Plaintiffs pursuant to 42 PA. CONS. STAT. § 5301 (a)(1).

2. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure 1006(a)(1) because (a) Plaintiffs reside in Philadelphia County; and (b) the cause of action arises out of transactions and occurrences that took place in Philadelphia County.

FACTS

3. Plaintiffs, residents of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, were married on September 3, 2005 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

4. Plaintiffs' wedding ceremony was officiated by Robert A. Norman.

5. Robert A. Norman was ordained a minister on January 2, 2002 by the Universal Life Church (ULC), an established church that is recognized as such by its members and is accorded tax-exempt status by the federal and state governments.

6. At the time of this wedding ceremony, Robert A. Norman was a itinerant minister who did not have his own assigned church or congregation.

7. Plaintiffs have remained married continuously since that date, over two years.

CLAIM FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

8. On September 7, 2007, a ruling by the York County Court of Common Pleas, *Heyer v. Hollerbush*, No. 2007-SU-002132-Y08, threatened the validity of Plaintiffs' marriage (Slip opinion attached hereto as **Exhibit A**). The York County court

held that the marriage of Dorie Heyer and Jacob Hollerbush never existed because the minister who solemnized the marriage did not serve a congregation or preach in a physical house of worship, and in doing so called into question the marriages of thousands of other couples across the Commonwealth.

9. In *Heyer*, Ms. Heyer and Mr. Hollerbush's wedding rites had been conducted by a minister who was ordained online by the ULC, a nondenominational faith. Ms. Heyer filed for a declaratory judgment that the marriage was void because the minister did not meet the requirements of 23 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 1503(a)(6). Exh. A at 6. That statute allows marriages in Pennsylvania to be sanctified by any "minister, priest or rabbi of any regularly established church or congregation." The York County court construed these words to require that in order to perform weddings a minister must, at minimum, preach to a group of individuals on a regular basis at a physically situated "place of worship." *Id.* It then ruled that the minister to Ms. Heyer and Mr. Hollerbush's ceremony was not authorized under § 1503(a)(6) and their marriage was therefore invalid as a matter of law. *Id.*

10. The York County court's ruling is contrary to the plain text of § 1503(a)(6), which requires only that a religious officiant be clergy "of any regularly established church *or* congregation," not that the officiant *both* represent an established "place of worship" *and* serve a particular congregation.

11. The York County court's interpretation of § 1503(a)(6) would render Plaintiffs' marriage invalid because the minister who solemnized it, although ordained by a regularly established church, did not have a physically situated "place of worship" or a congregation.

12. Furthermore, the York County court's ruling casts doubt upon the validity of *any* marriage performed in the Commonwealth by a religious official who does not have a physical house of worship or a congregation. Such officials would include, but are not limited to, Jesuit professors, rabbis at college Hillels, retired clergy, ordained church administrators, and priests or rabbis attached to military units, hospitals or care facilities. Upon information and belief, thousands of otherwise robust marriages in Pennsylvania have been consecrated by ministers who fail to meet the York County court's artificial standard.

13. The responsibility for issuance of marriage licenses in the Commonwealth is vested in the Register of Wills for each county. *See* 20 PA. CONS. STAT. § 711(19); PA. CONST. SCHED. Art. 5, § 15.

14. Since the *Heyer* decision, Registers of Wills in counties throughout the Commonwealth have been advising applicants for marriage licenses that their marriages may be or are void if they are solemnized by ministers who do not have a congregation or a place of worship. *See, e.g.*, Letter from Barbara Reilly, Register of Wills of Bucks County (attached hereto as **Exhibit B**); *see also* Lancaster County Government website at <http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/lanco/cwp/view.asp?a=562&Q=262321> (last viewed February 12, 2008) (attached hereto as **Exhibit C**).

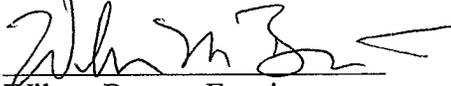
15. Because Plaintiffs' wedding was officiated by Robert A. Norman, Plaintiffs fear that their marriage will be void should courts adopt *Heyer's* misinterpretation of § 1503(a)(6). Plaintiffs also fear that they could lose many of the important privileges of marriage, such as spousal employment benefits, tax benefits, and

certainty regarding their estate, if the *Heyer* court's ruling is used by insurance companies, courts or taxing authorities to determine their entitlement to such privileges.

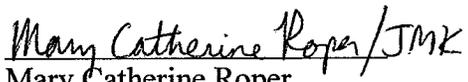
16. Under 23 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 3306, "both of the parties to a marriage may bring an action for a declaratory judgment seeking a declaration of the validity or invalidity of the marriage." To lift the cloud over their union, pursuant to this statute Plaintiffs seek a prompt determination that their marriage is valid under Pennsylvania law.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for this court to enter a judgment declaring that Plaintiffs are lawfully married in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and establishing the validity of their marriage.

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

By: 
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Attorney I.D. No. 25846
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AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES
FOUNDATION OF PA

By: 
Mary Catherine Roper
Attorney I.D. No. 71107
P.O. Box 40008
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Attorneys for Plaintiffs
Jason B. O'Neill and Jennifer O'Neill

VERIFICATION

I, Jennifer O'Neill, a plaintiff in the above-captioned action, verify that the foregoing information provided by me in this Action for Declaratory Judgment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that my statements are made subject to the penalties of Pa. Cons. Stat. § 4904, which relates to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Dated: 2/12/08.

Jennifer R. O'Neill
Name

EXHIBIT A

Plaintiff and Defendant are both adult individuals. On June 30, 2006, Plaintiff and Defendant made application for a marriage license in York County, Pennsylvania. A marriage license was issued by the Honorable Bradley C. Jacobs, Clerk of the Orphans' Court on July 3, 2006. The return of marriage certificate was filed by Mr. Johnson on or about August 28, 2006, indicating that the ceremony had occurred on August 24, 2006. The

Relevant and Procedural History

Adam Charles Robert Johnson. The parties stipulated to the averments of the Motion, which time the only testimony offered was that of the officiant of the wedding ceremony, Court to declare his marriage of the parties invalid. A hearing was held on July 19, 2007, at which time the Court has before it a Motion for Declaratory Judgment requesting the

DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF PROBATE AND
ORPHANS' COURT
JULY 19 10 49 AM '07
COURT HOUSE
YORK, PA.

APPARANCES:
Suzanne H. Giest, Esquire
For Plaintiff
Pro Se
137 West Jackson Street
York, PA 17405
For Defendant

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
No. 2007-SU-002192-Y08
DORIE E. HRYER, Plaintiff
vs.
JACOB T. HOLLERBUSH, Defendant
CIVIL ACTION
DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

ceremony occurred after the repeal of common law marriage in Pennsylvania. 23 Pa.C.S.A. §1103. No witnesses attended the ceremony other than Mr. Johnston. No certificate was filed pursuant to Section 1502 of the Domestic Relations Code. 23 Pa. C.S.A. §1502.

Mr. Johnston was "ordained" via the internet by the Universal Life Church. Mr. Johnston received his certification within five to ten minutes of application by visiting the Universal Life Church website at www.U.L.C.org. Mr. Johnston testified that he is a member of the Universal Life Church by virtue of his ordination although he has never attended any meetings at the office of the church. Mr. Johnston receives a newsletter and emails from the Universal Life Church. Mr. Johnston does not have a location or congregation of members for which he serves as a minister with any regularity. Neither Plaintiff nor Defendant are members of the Universal Life Church.

On June 12, 2007, Plaintiff filed a Motion for Declaratory Judgment asserting that the marriage is invalid because Mr. Johnston is not a minister, priest or rabbi of any regularly established church or congregation as required by Section 1503(a) of the Domestic Relations Code. 23 Pa. C.S.A. §1503(a). Plaintiff further asserts that the marriage is invalid because Mr. Johnston secured his credentials on-line from the Universal Life Church and Mr. Johnston was never a member of the Universal ~~Life Church~~ congregation. Further, Plaintiff asserts the marriage is invalid because neither Plaintiff nor Defendant were members of the Universal Life Church as required by Section 1503(b) of the Domestic Relations Code, and there were no witnesses to the ceremony. 23 Pa. C.S.A. §1503(b).

Discussion

Addressing first, Plaintiff's claim that the marriage is invalid because the parties thereto were not members of the Universal Life Church pursuant to the requirements of Section 1503(b) of the Domestic Relations Code, the Court finds such argument to be without merit. Section 1503(b) provides:

Religious organizations. - Every religious society, religious institution or religious organization in this Commonwealth may join persons together in marriage when at least one of the persons is a member of the society, institution or organization, according to the rules and customs of the society, institution or organization.

This Court's reading of Section 1503(b) is that it addresses those marriage ceremonies where there is no presiding officiant but rather the ceremony is conducted by the parties in front of the particular religious society's congregation or elders such as occurs in the Quaker society. In the present case, there was no ceremony before a congregation or group of elders, in fact, there were no witnesses present for the ceremony.

This Court found no Pennsylvania appellate case law specifically addressing the validity of a marriage performed by an internet ordained Universal Life Church minister. A brief review of cases in other jurisdictions is in order.

In a case pre-dating ordination via the internet, the New York Court of Appeals held invalid a marriage ordained by a person who, for a fee, had received his credentials by mail from the Universal Life Church. Ravenal v. Ravenal, 338 N.Y.S. 2d 324

(1972). At the time the decision was rendered, the New York statute made invalid all marriages not solemnized by a clergyman or minister of any religion or selected officials.

The Court applied the statutory definition of "clergyman" or "minister" and held:

Universal Life Church, Inc., is not an ecclesiastical body of denomination or order; indeed, it is entirely non-ecclesiastical and non-denominational. Thus, in the absence of an actual church or stated meeting-place for worship or any form of religious observance, presided over or directed by a person regarded by such group as its minister, whether or not properly ordained, which would vest in such person the authority to perform the marriage ceremony, the person here in question, whose in the mail the card entitled "Credentials of Ministry", must be deemed without authority.

Id. at 328.

Similarly, in Ranieri v. Ranieri, 539 N.Y.S.2d 382 (1989), the Supreme Court of New York again determined a marriage solemnized in New York by a minister of the Universal Life Church was void because it did not meet the statutory requirements.

The Supreme Court of Virginia affirmed a decision of the lower court rescinding the authority of the appellants (Universal Life Church ministers) to celebrate rites of matrimony in Virginia. Cramer v. Commonwealth, 214 Va. 561, 202 S.E.2d 911 (1974).

The Virginia Supreme Court examined the ordination process for the Universal Life Church and held that "A church which consists of all ministers, and in which all new converts can become instant ministers, in fact has no 'minister' within the contemplation" of the Virginia statute. *Id.* at 567, 202 S.E. 2d at 915.

A conviction for bigamy was reversed when it was held by the Supreme Court

of North Carolina that a marriage solemnized by a Roman Catholic layman who bought a \$10.00 mail order certificate giving him "credentials of minister" in the Universal Life Church was not a recognizable marriage under the laws of North Carolina. State v. Lynch, 301 N.C. 479, 488, 272 S.E. 2d 349, 354-355 (1980).

In contrast the Supreme Court of Mississippi held that a Universal Life minister was enough of a "spiritual leader" of a "religious body" under the laws of Mississippi and therefore legally empowered to marry individuals. Blackwell v. Macee, 531 So.2d 1193, 1196 (1988).

Turning now to the specific language of the Pennsylvania Domestic Relations Code, Section 1503(a) sets forth the persons qualified to solemnize marriages:

General rule.- The following are authorized to solemnize marriages between persons that produce a marriage license issued under this part:

- (1) A justice, judge or magisterial district judge of this Commonwealth.
- (2) A former or retired justice judge or magisterial district judge of this Commonwealth who is serving as a senior judge...
- (3) An active or senior judge or full-time magistrate of the District Courts of the United States....
- (3.1) An active, retired or senior bankruptcy judge of the United States Bankruptcy Courts....
- (4) An active, retired or senior bankruptcy judge of the United States Court of Appeals.....
- (5) A mayor of any city or borough in this Commonwealth.
- (6) A minister, priest or rabbi of any regularly established church or congregation.

At issue in the present case is the interpretation of the phrase "of any regularly established church or congregation." The Domestic Relations Code fails to provide a

definition for this phrase. The testimony in the present case established that Mr. Johnston was not a member of the Universal Life Church prior to his internet ordination. Mr. Johnston also testified that he has not attended any meetings at any office of the Universal Life Church. Mr. Johnston has no congregation with which he regularly or occasionally meets and no place of worship. At the very least, the statute purports to require an activity that occurs on a habitual or patterned periodic basis at a place of worship (church) or before a group of individuals gathered together for the same purpose (congregation).

Based upon the evidence presented, Mr. Johnston does not meet the qualifications of persons who may solemnize marriages in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Therefore, the marriage of Plaintiff and Defendant is declared void *ab initio*.

Copies of this Judgment shall be forwarded by the Prothonotary to Counsel of record and to any unrepresented party.

BY THE COURT:



Maria Musti Cook, Judge

Date: September 7, 2007

254001300164

EXHIBIT B



COUNTY OF BUCKS

BARBARA G. REILLY

Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans' Court

Bucks County Courthouse, 55 E. Court St., Doylestown, PA 18901

James H. McCullen, Jr.
Chief Deputy

Rebecca A. Kiefer
Deputy

(215) 348-6265
(215) 355-7497
(215) 946-8900
FAX (215) 348-6156

Dear Applicants;

A landmark decision rendered by Judge Cook, York County Court of Common Pleas, declared a marriage "Void ab initio" on September 7, 2007, meaning the marriage never existed. This was the result of a challenge to the validity of a marriage performed by an internet minister. Pennsylvania statute 23 Pa.C.S.A. 1503 lists specific persons qualified to solemnize marriages, which includes a judge, magisterial district justice, mayor, or a minister, priest or rabbi of any regularly established church or congregation. (See attached disclaimer.)

The ruling determined that the "Officiant", who received his ordination via the internet, "was not a member of the Church prior to his internet ordination, had not attended any meetings at any office of the Church, had no congregation with which he regularly or occasionally meets and no place of worship." Judge Cook stated, "Based upon the evidence presented, the officiant does not meet the qualifications of persons who may solemnize marriages in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

As a result of this ruling, some couples may face serious legal ramifications such as difficulties with medical coverage, insurance benefits, retirement benefits, social security benefits and heirship rights, to name a few. They are not covered under "Common-Law" since it was abolished on January 1, 2005. Therefore, it is my responsibility as Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphan's Court to reach as many couples as possible, before they encounter problems.

I urge couples to check that their officiant is a legitimate member of a regularly established church or congregation. If not, they should remarry following state statutes. Information regarding requirements to obtain a marriage license in Pennsylvania may be obtained by calling (215) 348-6271 or the toll-free numbers (215) 946-8900, (215)356-4680, or (610)982-5144 weekdays between 8:00am and 4:30pm.

In order to ensure that your marriage records are accurate, please have your officiant complete the enclosed Duplicate Certification and Affidavit and return them to the Orphan's Court at the above address.

Sincerely,

Barbara G. Reilly
Register of Wills and Orphans' Court



COUNTY OF BUCKS

BARBARA G. REILLY

Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans' Court

Bucks County Courthouse, 55 E. Court St., Doylestown, PA 18901

James H. McCullin, Jr.
Chief Deputy

Rebecca A. Kiefer
Deputy

(215) 348-6265
(215) 355-7497
(215) 946-8900
FAX (215) 348-6156

Pennsylvania Marriage Laws, 23 Pa.C.S.

§ 1503. Persons qualified to solemnize marriages.

(a) **General rule**--The following are authorized to solemnize marriages between persons that produce a marriage license issued under this part:

(1) A justice, judge or magisterial district judge of this Commonwealth.

(2) A former or retired justice, judge or magisterial district judge of this Commonwealth who is serving as a senior judge or senior magisterial district judge as provided or prescribed by law.

(3) An active or senior judge or full-time magistrate of the District Courts of the United States for the Eastern, Middle or Western District of Pennsylvania.

(3.1) An active, retired or senior bankruptcy judge of the United States Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern, Middle or Western District of Pennsylvania who is a resident of this Commonwealth.

(4) An active, retired or senior judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit who is a resident of this Commonwealth.

(5) A mayor of any city or borough of this Commonwealth.

(6) A minister, priest or rabbi of any regularly established church or congregation.

(b) **Religious organizations**.--Every religious society, religious institution or religious organization in this Commonwealth may join persons together in marriage when at least one of the persons is a member of the society, institution or organization, according to the rules and customs of the society, institution or organization.

(c) **Marriage license needed to officiate**.--No person or religious organization qualified to perform marriages shall officiate at a marriage ceremony without the parties having obtained a marriage license issued under this part.

(June 22, 2000, P.L.443, No.59, eff. imd.; Nov. 30, 2004, P.L.1618, No.207, eff. 60 days; Dec. 1, 2004, P.L.1777, No.232, eff. 60 days)

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Applicants are advised that persons who have been ordained over the Internet may not be persons permitted to perform marriages in Pennsylvania. A recent Court decision held that persons ordained over the Internet are not ministers as defined in the marriage law of Pennsylvania IF they do not regularly preach to a congregation that regularly meets at a place of worship. You are advised to consult an attorney concerning the legality of such marriages.

This office will not determine what is / is not a church and / or congregation.

PLEASE BE ADVISED: If you choose to be married by someone other than the officiants specifically listed as authorized by PA law, the burden of proof will be on you regarding the legality of your marriage – should future issues arise that require a determination of the marriage's validity.

To be recognized as legal by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, marriages must be performed under a valid marriage license duly issued by a Clerk of Orphans' Court & **MUST BE OFFICIATED** by one of the following individuals specifically recognized under PA law as authorized to officiate, to wit:

§ 1503. Persons qualified to solemnize marriages.

(a) General rule – The following are authorized to solemnize marriages between persons that produce a marriage license issued under this part:

1. A justice, judge or district justice of this Commonwealth
2. A former or retired justice, judge or district justice of this Commonwealth who is serving as a senior judge or senior district justice as provided or prescribed by law
3. An active or senior judge or full-time magistrate of the District Courts of the United States for the Eastern, Middle or Western District of Pennsylvania
4. An active or senior judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit who is a resident of this Commonwealth
5. A mayor of any city or borough of this Commonwealth
6. A minister, priest or rabbi of any regularly established church or congregation

(b) Religious organizations – Every religious society, religious institution or religious organization in this Commonwealth may join persons together in marriage when at least one of the persons is a member of the society, institution or organization, according to the rules and customs of the society, institution or organization. (Amish & Quakers if you are a member)

(c) Marriage license needed to officiate – No person or religious organization qualified to perform marriages shall officiate at a marriage ceremony without the parties having obtained a marriage license issued under this part.

Effective 01/01/05

Common Law marriage is no longer valid in Pennsylvania.

EXHIBIT C

Lancaster County, PA :: Your Government Online

www.co.lancaster.pa.us

Instructions for Obtaining a Marriage License

24-HOUR INFO. LINE

(717) 295-3522

[WHO MUST APPLY](#)

[ID REQUIREMENTS](#)

[AGE REQUIREMENTS](#)

[MEDICAL EXAMINATION](#)

[REMARRIAGES](#)

[WHO MAY NOT MARRY](#)

[WHEN TO APPLY](#)

[WHERE TO APPLY](#)

[FEE](#)

[CERTIFIED COPIES](#)

[INTERNET ORDINATIONS](#)

[DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY](#)

WHO MUST APPLY

Both individuals must appear in person to complete the application for marriage. If either party cannot speak English, a third adult party, with ID, must be present to translate.

ID REQUIREMENTS

Social Security # and a government issued photo ID are required. Non US residents must provide a passport with current Visa. We reserve the right to require additional forms of ID as deemed necessary.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

18 years of age for male and female.

Under 18 years of age for either applicant with consent of a parent or guardian. Applicant must present Birth Certificate plus an additional \$5.00

Under 16 years of age with the approval of a Judge of the Orphans Court, as well as parent or guardian.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

The medical examination and blood test are no longer required...

REMARRIAGES

Applicants who have been previously married must provide the following information concerning the dissolution of the most recent marriage.

DIVORCES

Must present decree. Decrees in a foreign language must be officially translated. If maiden name has been resumed, that document must be presented.

ANNULMENTS

The same information as is required for divorces.

WIDOWED

The date of death of the deceased spouse is required.

WHO MAY NOT MARRY

Blood relatives down to and including first cousins, **MAY NOT** marry under the laws of Pennsylvania.

WHEN TO APPLY

Marriage Licenses are valid on the 3rd day following application. License is valid for only 60 days from issue date.

WHERE TO APPLY

Office of the Clerk of Orphans Court located on the second floor of the Lancaster County Courthouse at 50 North Duke Street, Lancaster, PA 17602. Office Hours: 8:30 - 4:30 Monday through Friday.

The ceremony need not be performed in the county in which the license was issued. A license issued by any Pennsylvania county can be used in any Pennsylvania county. The license is invalid outside of Pennsylvania.

FEE

\$40.00 CASH ONLY

CERTIFIED COPIES

To obtain a certified copy of your marriage certificate, either stop in our office **or** send \$10.00 payable to Register of Wills along with the grooms name, brides maiden name, date of marriage and a self addressed, stamped, legal size envelope to the Register of Wills at 50 North Duke Street, Lancaster, PA 17602.

INTERNET ORDINATIONS

Applicants are advised that persons who have been ordained over the internet may not be persons permitted to perform marriages in Pennsylvania.

A recent Court decision held that persons ordained over the Internet are not ministers as defined in the marriage law of Pennsylvania IF they do not regularly preach to a congregation that regularly meets at a place of worship. You are advised to consult an attorney concerning the legality of such marriages.

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

PLEASE BE ADVISED: If you choose to be married by someone other than the officiants specifically listed as authorized by PA law, the burden of proof will be on you regarding the legality of your marriage - should future issues arise that require a determination of the marriage's validity.

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PATRICIA L. BACHTLE

PROTHONOTARY
COUNTY OF BUCKS
DOYLESTOWN, PA. 18901
(215) 348-6191

DUPLICATE RECEIPT
2008 1 05725 P
D#2008 01620

02/14/2008 15:54

CK #	8679	181.50
TOTAL RCVD		181.50
TOTAL PAID		181.50
CHANGE		0.00

THANK YOU - PAZ