



ServiceOntario

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Thunder Bay

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To: Ontario Marriage Licence Issuers

From: Sandra Leonetti
Director and Deputy Registrar General

Date: May 31, 2013

Re: Getting Married in Ontario

As the marriage season is upon us, we recognize the important role of Marriage Licence Issuers when providing services to couples planning a wedding. I would like to communicate two updates:

1 – New Notice – “Before You Get Married”

As an important reminder to couples getting married to ensure that their marriage is performed properly and legally, an additional document has been developed which provides information about getting married in Ontario.

I ask that you include this bilingual “Before You Get Married” notice along with any other documentation you provide to couples when applying to purchase a marriage licence. A copy of the notice is attached to this memo and can be accessed online at <http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf?opendatabase&ENV=WWE>.

A supply of the “Before You Get Married” notice is being sent to you. Following this initial distribution, additional copies will be included in future orders for marriage licences.

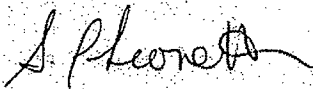
2 – Link to ServiceOntario's website

To assist in ensuring accurate information is provided to couples, we ask that you remove reference to any lists of religious officials you may have on your municipal website and/or refrain from providing paper lists to couples. Couples seeking a religious official to perform their marriage should be referred to the ServiceOntario webpage “Getting Married” (ServiceOntario.ca/GettingMarried). The webpage contains a current list of religious officials authorized to perform legal marriages in Ontario (alphabetically and by municipality) as well as other helpful information for couples. It is important that this be the only posted link as updates are made to the list on a weekly basis.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind Marriage Licence Issuers of your obligations and responsibilities under Ontario's *Marriage Act* (the "Act") when determining the couple's identity and capacity to marry. A current copy of the Act and its regulation can be obtained from the website at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca.

Should you have any questions regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact the dedicated Division Registrar Helpline at 1-807-343-7431.

Thank you again for your continued support and cooperation.



Sandra Leonetti
Director and Deputy Registrar General

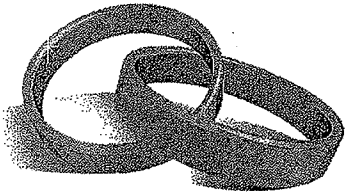
Attachment

Before you get married...

You need to check that the person performing your marriage ceremony is an authorized official. It is important to ensure that your marriage is performed properly and legally.



Who can perform a legal marriage in Ontario



- A **religious marriage ceremony** may be performed by a person who is registered under the Marriage Act to perform religious marriages in Ontario (religious official).
- A **civil marriage ceremony** may be performed by a judge, a justice of the peace or a municipal clerk and/or their delegate.

Only persons noted above are authorized to perform a marriage in Ontario.



Check before you get married

Find out if the person performing your marriage is an authorized official.

Religious Official:

- Check online at ServiceOntario.ca/GettingMarried to access lists of religious officials who are registered to perform marriages. Or call ServiceOntario at 1-800-461-2156 (areas outside Toronto) or 416-325-8305.

Ontario Municipal Clerk/Delegate:

- Contact your local city hall, town hall or municipal office to determine whether they provide civil marriage services and if so, who can perform a marriage.

Judge/Justice of the Peace:

- Judge: must be an Ontario provincial judge or a judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.
- Justice of the peace: must be a justice of the peace under Ontario's Justices of the Peace Act.

Visit ServiceOntario.ca/GettingMarried for more information.

