

Petition for Non-Resident Minister Authorization

Filing Fee required – see www.VermontJudiciary.org for a list of court fees

What other documentation must be included? - The Court will require a copy of the Proof of Ordination, the name and address of the Church currently ordained in, and the name and mailing address of the petitioner requesting authorization.

Is the Probate Court the right avenue for my request?

Title 18 V.S.A. §5144 Persons authorized to solemnize marriage (Active Ministers) states:

(a) Marriages may be solemnized by a Supreme Court Justice, a Superior judge, a judge of Probate, an assistant judge, a justice of the peace, a magistrate, a Judicial Bureau hearing officer, an individual who has registered as an officiant with the Vermont Secretary of State pursuant to section 5144a of this title, a member of the clergy residing in this State and ordained or licensed or otherwise regularly authorized thereunto by the published laws or discipline of the general conference, convention, or other authority of his or her faith or denomination, or by such a clergy person residing in an adjoining state or country, whose parish, church, temple, mosque, or other religious organization lies wholly or in part in this State, or by a member of the clergy residing in some other state of the United States or in the Dominion of Canada, provided he or she has first secured from the Probate Division of the Superior Court in the unit within which the marriage is to be solemnized a special authorization, authorizing him or her to certify the marriage if the Probate judge determines that the circumstances make the special authorization desirable. Marriage among the Friends or Quakers, the Christadelphian Ecclesia, and the Baha'i Faith may be solemnized in the manner heretofore used in such societies.

Is there another option to obtain authorization?

Title 18 V.S.A. §5144a Temporary officiant for marriages states:

(a) By registering with the Secretary of State, an individual may temporarily be authorized to solemnize a marriage in this State. When registering, the individual shall provide:

- (1) A completed registration form provided by the Secretary of State.
- (2) A \$100.00 fee.

(b) Upon registration as a temporary officiant, the individual shall be authorized to solemnize only the civil marriage designated on the registration form, and shall receive proof of that authority from the Secretary of State. The individual's authority to solemnize that civil marriage shall expire at the same time as the corresponding license.

The applicant will then receive written authorization from the secretary of state to officiate at a specific marriage. This authorization must be attached to the marriage license that is returned to the issuing municipal clerk. Officiants must be 18 years of age, or older. Please submit the registration form at least 10 days prior to the ceremony.