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HOUSE BILL 142*
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Short Title: Amend Marriage Statutes.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 15, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE MARRIAGE STATUTES TO BROADEN THE LIST OF PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES; TO VALIDATE A MARRIAGE LICENSED AND SOLEMNIZED BY A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBE OR NATION; TO REQUIRE JUDICIAL AUTHORIZATION BEFORE A FOURTEEN- OR FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD APPLICANT MAY BE MARRIED; TO PROHIBIT MARRIAGE BY ANYONE UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE; TO LIMIT THE REGISTER OF DEEDS' RESPONSIBILITY IN ISSUING MARRIAGE LICENSES TO VERIFYING OBJECTIVE REQUIREMENTS; TO PROVIDE A PROCEDURE BY WHICH A PERSON MAY APPLY FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE WITHOUT APPEARING IN PERSON; TO EXPAND THE GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE OF A MARRIAGE LICENSE; TO MAKE INCLUSION OF RACE ON THE LICENSE OPTIONAL; AND TO ALLOW FOR CORRECTIONS OF ERRORS IN THE APPLICATION OR LICENSE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 51-1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 51-1. Requisites of marriage; solemnization.

A valid and sufficient marriage is created by the ~~The~~ consent of a male and female person who may lawfully marry, presently to take each other as husband and wife, freely, seriously and plainly expressed by each in the presence of the other, ~~and either:~~

(1) a. ~~in~~ In the presence of an ordained minister of any religious denomination, a minister authorized by ~~his~~ a church, or ~~of a~~ magistrate, ~~and the consequent declaration by such minister or officer that such persons are husband and wife,~~ a magistrate; and

1 b. ~~and~~ With the consequent declaration by ~~such~~ the minister or
2 ~~officer~~ magistrate that ~~such~~ the persons are husband and wife,
3 wife; or

4 (2) In accordance with any mode of solemnization recognized by any
5 religious denomination, or federally or State recognized Indian Nation
6 or Tribe.

7 ~~shall be a valid and sufficient marriage: Provided, that the rite of marriage among the~~
8 ~~Society of Friends, according to a form and custom peculiar to themselves, shall not be~~
9 ~~interfered with by the provisions of this Chapter: Provided further, that marriages~~
10 ~~solemnized and witnessed by a local spiritual assembly of the Baha'is, according to the~~
11 ~~usage of their religious community, shall be valid; provided further, marriages~~
12 Marriages solemnized before March 9, 1909, by ministers of the gospel licensed, but not
13 ordained, are validated from their consummation."

14 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 51-2 reads as rewritten:

15 **"§ 51-2. Capacity to marry.**

16 (a) All unmarried persons of 18 years, or older, may lawfully marry, except as
17 hereinafter forbidden.

18 (a1) ~~In addition, persons~~ Persons over 16 years of age and under 18 years of age
19 may marry, and the register of deeds may issue a license for ~~such~~ the marriage, only
20 after there shall have been filed with the register of deeds a written consent to ~~such~~ the
21 marriage, said consent having been signed by the appropriate person as follows:

22 (1) ~~By the father if the male or female child applying to marry resides with~~
23 ~~his or her father, but not with his or her mother;~~

24 (2) ~~By the mother if the male or female child applying to marry resides~~
25 ~~with his or her mother, but not with his or her father;~~

26 (3) ~~By either the mother or father, without preference, if the male or~~
27 ~~female child applying to marry resides with his or her mother and~~
28 ~~father; a parent having full or joint legal custody of the underage party;~~
29 or

30 (4) By a person, agency, or institution having legal ~~eustody, standing in~~
31 ~~loco parentis, custody~~ or serving as a guardian of ~~such male or female~~
32 ~~child applying to marry. the underage party.~~

33 Such written consent shall not be required for an emancipated minor if a certificate of
34 emancipation issued pursuant to Article 35 of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes or a
35 certified copy of a final decree or certificate of emancipation from this or any other
36 jurisdiction is filed with the register of deeds.

37 (b) Persons over 14 years of age and under 16 years of age may marry as
38 provided in G.S. 51-2A.

39 ~~When an unmarried female who is more than 12 years old, but less than 18 years old,~~
40 ~~is pregnant or has given birth to a child and such unmarried female and the putative~~
41 ~~father of the child, either born or unborn, shall agree to marry, and consent in writing to~~
42 ~~such marriage, as set out in subsection (a), subdivisions (1), (2), (3) or (4) above, or by~~
43 ~~the director of social services of the county of residence of either party, is given on the~~

1 ~~part of the female, the register of deeds is authorized to issue to said parties a license to~~
2 ~~marry, and it shall be lawful for them to marry in accordance with the provisions of this~~
3 ~~Chapter.~~

4 (b1) It shall be unlawful for any person under 14 years of age to marry.

5 (c) ~~When a license to marry is procured by or on behalf of any person under 18~~
6 ~~years of age by fraud or misrepresentation, a parent or person standing in loco parentis~~
7 ~~to such person under 18 years of age shall be a proper party plaintiff in parent of the~~
8 ~~underage party, a person, agency, or institution having legal custody or serving as a~~
9 ~~guardian of the underage party, or a guardian ad litem appointed to represent the~~
10 ~~underage party pursuant to G.S. 51-2A(b) is a proper party to bring an action to annul~~
11 ~~said the marriage."~~

12 **SECTION 3.** Article 1 of Chapter 51 of the General Statutes is amended by
13 adding a new section to read:

14 "**§ 51-2A. Marriage of certain underage parties.**

15 (a) If an unmarried female who is more than 14 years of age, but less than 16
16 years of age, is pregnant or has given birth to a child and the unmarried female and the
17 putative father of the child, either born or unborn, agree to marry, or if an unmarried
18 male who is more than 14 years of age, but less than 16 years of age, is the putative
19 father of a child, either born or unborn, and the unmarried male and the mother of the
20 child agree to marry, the register of deeds is authorized to issue to the parties a license
21 to marry; and it shall be lawful for them to marry in accordance with the provisions of
22 this Chapter, only after a certified copy of an order issued by a district court authorizing
23 the marriage is filed with the register of deeds. A district court judge may issue an order
24 authorizing a marriage under this section only upon finding as fact and concluding as a
25 matter of law that the underage party is capable of assuming the responsibilities of
26 marriage and the marriage will serve the best interest of the underage party. In
27 determining whether the marriage will serve the best interest of an underage party, the
28 district court shall consider the following:

29 (1) The opinion of the parents of the underage party as to whether the
30 marriage serves the best interest of the underage party.

31 (2) The opinion of any person, agency, or institution having legal custody
32 or serving as a guardian of the underage party as to whether the
33 marriage serves the best interest of the underage party.

34 (3) The opinion of the guardian ad litem appointed to represent the best
35 interest of the underage party pursuant to G.S. 51-2A(b) as to whether
36 the marriage serves the best interest of the underage party.

37 (4) The relationship between the underage party and the parents of the
38 underage party, as well as the relationship between the underage party
39 and any person having legal custody or serving as a guardian of the
40 underage party.

41 (5) Any evidence that it would find useful in making its determination.

42 There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the marriage will not serve the best
43 interest of the underage party when all living parents of the underage party oppose the

1 marriage. The fact that the female is pregnant, or has given birth to a child, alone does
2 not establish that the best interest of the underage party will be served by the marriage.

3 (b) An underage party seeking an order granting judicial authorization to marry
4 pursuant to this section shall file a civil action in the district court requesting judicial
5 authorization to marry. The clerk shall collect court costs from the underage party in the
6 amount set forth in G.S. 7A-305 for civil actions in district court. Upon the filing of the
7 complaint, summons shall be issued in accordance with G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4, and the
8 underage party shall be appointed a guardian ad litem in accordance with the provisions
9 of G.S. 1A-1, Rule 17. The guardian ad litem appointed shall be an attorney and shall be
10 governed by the provisions of subsection (d) of this section. The underage party shall
11 serve a copy of the summons and complaint, in accordance with G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4, on
12 the father of the underage party; the mother of the underage party; and any person,
13 agency, or institution having legal custody or serving as a guardian of the underage
14 party. The underage party also shall serve a copy of the complaint, either in accordance
15 with G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4, or G.S. 1A-1, Rule 5, on the guardian ad litem appointed
16 pursuant to this section. A party responding to the underage party's complaint shall
17 serve his response within 30 days after service of the summons and complaint upon that
18 person. The underage party may participate in the proceedings before the court on his
19 or her own behalf. At the hearing conducted pursuant to this section, the court shall
20 consider evidence, as provided in subsection (a) of this section, and shall make written
21 findings of fact and conclusions of law.

22 (c) Any party to a proceeding under this section may be represented by counsel,
23 but no party is entitled to appointed counsel, except as provided in this section.

24 (d) The guardian ad litem appointed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section
25 shall represent the best interest of the underage party in all proceedings under this
26 section and also has standing to institute an action under G.S. 51-2(c). The appointment
27 shall terminate when the last judicial ruling rendering the authorization granted or
28 denied is entered. Payment of the guardian ad litem shall be governed by subsections (a)
29 and (c) of G.S. 7B-603. The guardian ad litem shall make an investigation to determine
30 the facts, the needs of the underage party, the available resources within the family and
31 community to meet those needs, the impact of the marriage on the underage party, and
32 the ability of the underage party to assume the responsibilities of marriage; facilitate,
33 when appropriate, the settlement of disputed issues; offer evidence and examine
34 witnesses at the hearing; and protect and promote the best interest of the underage party.
35 In fulfilling the guardian ad litem's duties, the guardian ad litem shall assess and
36 consider the emotional development, maturity, intellect, and understanding of the
37 underage party. The guardian ad litem has the authority to obtain any information or
38 reports, whether or not confidential, that the guardian ad litem deems relevant to the
39 case. No privilege other than attorney-client privilege may be invoked to prevent the
40 guardian ad litem and the court from obtaining such information. The confidentiality of
41 the information or reports shall be respected by the guardian ad litem, and no disclosure
42 of any information or reports shall be made to anyone except by order of the court or
43 unless otherwise provided by law.

1 (e) If the last judicial ruling in this proceeding denies the underage party judicial
2 authorization to marry, the underage party shall not seek the authorization of any court
3 again under this section until after one year from the date of the entry of the last judicial
4 ruling rendering the authorization denied.

5 (f) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the rules of evidence in civil
6 cases shall apply to proceedings under this section. All hearings pursuant to this section
7 shall be recorded by stenographic notes or by electronic or mechanical means.
8 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no appeal of right lies from an order or
9 judgment entered pursuant to this section."

10 **SECTION 4.** Article 1 of Chapter 51 of the General Statutes is amended by
11 adding a new section to read:

12 **"§ 51-2B. Parent includes adoptive parent.**

13 As used in this Article, the terms "parent", "father", or "mother" includes one who
14 has become a parent, father, or mother, respectively, by adoption."

15 **SECTION 5.** Article 1 of Chapter 51 of the General Statutes is amended by
16 adding a new section to read:

17 **"§ 51-3.2. Marriage licensed and solemnized by a federally recognized Indian**
18 **Nation or Tribe.**

19 (a) Subject to the restriction provided in subsection (b), a marriage between a
20 man and a woman licensed and solemnized according to the law of a federally
21 recognized Indian Nation or Tribe shall be valid and the parties to the marriage shall be
22 lawfully married.

23 (b) When the law of a federally recognized Indian Nation or Tribe allows persons
24 to obtain a marriage license from the register of deeds and the parties to a marriage do
25 so, Chapter 51 of the General Statutes shall apply and the marriage shall be valid only if
26 the issuance of the license and the solemnization of the marriage is conducted in
27 compliance with this Chapter."

28 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 51-6 reads as rewritten:

29 **"§ 51-6. Solemnization without license unlawful.**

30 No ~~minister or officer~~ minister, officer, or any other person authorized to solemnize
31 a marriage under the laws of this State shall perform a ceremony of marriage between a
32 man and woman, or shall declare them to be husband and wife, until there is delivered
33 to ~~him~~ that person a license for the marriage of the said persons, signed by the register
34 of deeds of the county in which the marriage is intended to take place license was issued
35 or by ~~his~~ a lawful ~~deputy~~ deputy or assistant. There must be at least two witnesses to
36 the marriage ceremony.

37 Whenever a man and woman have been lawfully married in accordance with the
38 laws of the state in which the marriage ceremony took place, and said marriage was
39 performed by a ~~justice of the peace~~ magistrate or some other civil official duly
40 authorized to perform such ceremony, and the parties thereafter wish to confirm their
41 marriage vows before an ordained minister or minister authorized by ~~his~~ a church, or in
42 a ceremony recognized by any religious denomination, federally or State recognized
43 Indian Nation or Tribe, nothing herein shall be deemed to prohibit such confirmation

1 ceremony; provided, however, that such confirmation ceremony shall not be deemed in
2 law to be a marriage ceremony, such confirmation ceremony shall in no way affect the
3 validity or invalidity of the prior marriage ceremony performed by a civil official, no
4 license for such confirmation ceremony shall be issued by a register of deeds, and no
5 record of such confirmation ceremony may be kept by a register of deeds."

6 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 51-7 reads as rewritten:

7 **"§ 51-7. Penalty for solemnizing without license.**

8 Every ~~minister or officer~~ minister, officer, or any other person authorized to
9 solemnize a marriage under the laws of this State, who marries any couple without a
10 license being first delivered to him, that person, as required by law, or after the
11 expiration of such license, or who fails to return such license to the register of deeds
12 within 10 days after any marriage celebrated by virtue thereof, with the certificate
13 appended thereto duly filled up and signed, shall forfeit and pay two hundred dollars
14 (\$200.00) to any person who sues therefore, and ~~he~~ shall also be guilty of a Class 1
15 misdemeanor."

16 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 51-8 reads as rewritten:

17 **"§ 51-8. License issued by register of deeds.**

18 Every register of deeds shall, upon proper application, issue a license for the
19 marriage of any two persons ~~if it appears that such persons~~ who are able to answer the
20 questions regarding age, marital status, and intention to marry, and, based on the
21 answers, the register of deeds determines the persons are authorized to be married in
22 accordance with the laws of this State. In making a determination as to whether or not
23 the parties are authorized to be married under the laws of this State, the register of deeds
24 may require the applicants for the license to marry to present certified copies of birth
25 certificates or birth registration cards provided for in G.S. 130-73, or such other
26 evidence as the register of deeds deems necessary to such determination. The register of
27 deeds may administer an oath to any person presenting evidence relating to whether or
28 not parties applying for a marriage license are eligible to be married pursuant to the
29 laws of this State. Each applicant for a marriage license shall provide on the application
30 the applicant's social security number. If an applicant does not have a social security
31 number and is ineligible to obtain one, the applicant shall present a statement to that
32 effect, sworn to or affirmed before an officer authorized to administer oaths. Upon
33 presentation of a sworn or affirmed statement, the register of deeds shall issue the
34 license, provided all other requirements are met, and retain the statement with the
35 register's copy of the license. The register of deeds shall not issue a marriage license
36 unless all of the requirements of this section have been met."

37 **SECTION 9.** Chapter 51 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the
38 following new section:

39 **"§ 51-8.2. Issuance of marriage license when applicant is unable to appear.**

40 If an applicant for a marriage license is over 18 years of age and is unable to appear
41 in person at the register of deeds' office, the other party to the planned marriage must
42 appear in person on behalf of the applicant and submit a sworn and notarized affidavit
43 in lieu of the absent applicant's personal appearance.

The affidavit shall be in the following or some equivalent form:

_____, [applicant] appearing before the undersigned notary and being duly sworn, says that:

1. I, _____, [applicant's name] am applying for a license in _____ County, North Carolina, to marry _____ [name of other applicant] in North Carolina within the next 60 days and I am authorized under G.S. 51-8.2 to complete this Affidavit in Lieu of Personal Appearance for Marriage License Application.

I attach: (1) documentation that I am over 18 years of age as required in county of issuance; and (2) documentation of divorce as required by county of issuance.

2. I submit the following information in applying for a marriage license:

Name: _____

First Middle Last

Residence: _____

State County City or Town

Street and Number Inside City Limits (Yes or No)

Birthplace: _____ Birth Date: _____ Age: _____

County & State or Country _____

Father: _____

Name State of Birth Address (if living) or Deceased

Mother: _____

Name State of Birth Address (if living) or Deceased

Race (Optional): _____ Number of this marriage: _____

1st, 2nd, etc.

Last Marriage Ended by: _____ Date Marriage Ended: _____

Death, Divorce, Annulment _____

Specify Highest Grade Completed in School (Optional): _____

Social Security # _____ (If applicant does not have Social Security number, attach affidavit of ineligibility)

I hereby make application to the Register of Deeds for a Marriage License and solemnly swear that all of the statements contained in the above application are true and I further make oath that there is no legal impediment to such marriage.

1 _____ Signature of Applicant

2 Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me

3 this _____ day of _____,

4 _____

5 [Seal] Notary Public

6 _____ My commission expires: _____

7 _____ [Notary's typed or printed name]"

8 SECTION 10. G.S. 51-15 reads as rewritten:

9 "§ 51-15. Obtaining license by false representation misdemeanor.

10 If any person shall ~~obtain~~ obtain, or aid and abet in obtaining, a marriage license by
11 misrepresentation or false pretenses, ~~he~~ that person shall be guilty of a Class 31
12 misdemeanor."

13 SECTION 11. G.S. 51-16 reads as rewritten:

14 "§ 51-16. Form of license.

15 License shall be in the following or some equivalent form:

16 To any ordained minister of any religious denomination, minister authorized by ~~his~~ a
17 church, ~~or to any magistrate for~~ _____ County: magistrate, or any other
18 person authorized to solemnize a marriage under the laws of this State: A.B. having
19 applied to me for a license for the marriage of C.D. (the name of the man to be written
20 in full) of (here state his residence), aged _____ years (race, as the case may be),
21 the son of (here state the father and mother, if known; state whether they are living or
22 dead, and their residence, if known; if any of these facts are not known, so state), and
23 E.F. (write the name of the woman in full) of (here state her residence), aged
24 _____ years (race, as the case may be), the daughter of (here state names and
25 residences of the parents, if known, as is required above with respect to the man). (If
26 either of the parties is under 18 years of age, the license shall here contain the
27 following:) And the written consent of G.H., father (or mother, etc., as the case may
28 be) to the proposed marriage having been filed with me, and there being no legal
29 impediment to such marriage known to me, you are hereby authorized, at any time
30 within 60 days from the date hereof, to celebrate the proposed marriage at any place
31 within the ~~said county~~ State. You are required within 10 days after you shall have
32 celebrated such marriage, to return this license to me at my office with your signature
33 subscribed to the certificate under this license, and with the blanks therein filled
34 according to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting two hundred dollars (\$200.00) to the
35 use of any person who shall sue for the same.

36 Issued this _____ day of _____, _____

37 _____ L.M.

38 Register of Deeds of _____ County

39 Every register of deeds ~~shall~~ shall, at the request of an applicant, designate in ~~every~~ a
40 marriage license issued the race of the persons proposing to marry by inserting in the
41 blank after the word "race" the words "white," ~~"colored, or "Indian,"~~ "black," "African-
42 American," "American Indian," "Alaska Native," "Asian Indian," "Chinese," "Filipino,"
43 "Japanese," "Korean," "Vietnamese," "Other Asian," "Native Hawaiian," "Guamarian,"

1 "Chamorro," "Samoan," "Other Pacific Islander," "Mexican," "Mexican-American,"
2 "Chicano," "Puerto Rican," "Cuban," "Other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino," or "other," as
3 the case may be. The certificate shall be filled up and signed by the ~~minister or officer~~
4 minister, officer, or other authorized individual celebrating the marriage, and also be
5 signed by two witnesses present at the marriage, who shall add to their names their
6 place of residence, as follows:

7 I, N.O., an ordained or authorized minister or other authorized individual of (here
8 state to what religious denomination, or magistrate, as the case may be), united in
9 matrimony (here name the parties), the parties licensed above, on the _____ day of
10 _____, _____, at the house of P.R., in (here name the town, if any, the
11 township and county), according to law.

12 _____ N.O.

13 Witness present at the marriage:

14 S.T., of (here give residence)."

15 **SECTION 12.** G.S. 51-18.1 reads as rewritten:

16 "**§ 51-18.1. Correction of errors in ~~names in application or license; amendment of~~**
17 **names in application or license.**

18 (a) When it shall appear to the register of deeds of any county in this State that
19 ~~the names of either or both parties to a marriage~~ information is incorrectly stated on an
20 application for a marriage license, or upon a marriage license issued thereunder, or upon
21 a return or certificate of an officiating officer, the register of deeds is authorized to
22 correct such record or records ~~to show the true name and names of the parties to the~~
23 ~~marriage~~ upon being furnished with an affidavit signed by one or both of the applicants
24 for the marriage license, accompanied by affidavits of at least two other persons who
25 know the ~~true name or names of the person or persons seeking such correction.~~ correct
26 information.

27 (b) When the name of a party to a marriage has been changed by court order as a
28 result of a legitimation action or other cause of action, and the party whose name is
29 changed ~~present~~ presents a signed affidavit to the register of deeds indicating the name
30 change and requesting that the application for a marriage license, the marriage license,
31 and the marriage certificate of the officiating officer be amended by substituting the
32 changed name for the original name, the register of deeds may amend the records as
33 requested by the party, provided the other party named in the records consents to the
34 amendment."

35 **SECTION 13.** G.S. 7B-200 reads as rewritten:

36 "**§ 7B-200. Jurisdiction.**

37 (a) The court has exclusive, original jurisdiction over any case involving a
38 juvenile who is alleged to be abused, neglected, or dependent. This jurisdiction does not
39 extend to cases involving adult defendants alleged to be guilty of abuse or neglect.

40 The court also has exclusive original jurisdiction of the following proceedings:

41 (1) Proceedings under the Interstate Compact on the Placement of
42 Children set forth in Article 38 of this Chapter;

- 1 (2) Proceedings involving judicial consent for emergency surgical or
2 medical treatment for a juvenile when the juvenile's parent, guardian,
3 custodian, or other person who has assumed the status and obligation
4 of a parent without being awarded legal custody of the juvenile by a
5 court refuses to consent for treatment to be rendered;
- 6 (3) Proceedings to determine whether a juvenile should be emancipated;
- 7 (4) Proceedings to terminate parental rights;
- 8 (5) Proceedings to review the placement of a juvenile in foster care
9 pursuant to an agreement between the juvenile's parents or guardian
10 and a county department of social services;
- 11 (6) Proceedings in which a person is alleged to have obstructed or
12 interfered with an investigation required by G.S. 7B-302; ~~and~~
- 13 (7) Proceedings involving consent for an abortion on an unemancipated
14 minor pursuant to Article 1A, Part 2 of Chapter 90 of the General
15 ~~Statutes-Statutes; and~~
- 16 (8) Proceedings by an underage party seeking judicial authorization to
17 marry, pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 51 of the General Statutes.

18 (b) The court shall have jurisdiction over the parent or guardian of a juvenile who
19 has been adjudicated abused, neglected, or dependent, as provided by G.S. 7B-904,
20 provided the parent or guardian has been properly served with summons pursuant to
21 G.S. 7B-406."

22 **SECTION 14.** G.S. 130A-110 reads as rewritten:

23 "**§ 130A-110. Registration of marriage certificates.**

24 (a) On or before the fifteenth day of the month, the register of deeds shall
25 transmit to the State Registrar a record of each marriage ceremony performed in the
26 county during the preceding calendar month. The State Registrar shall prescribe a form
27 containing the information required by ~~G.S. 50-16~~ G.S. 51-16 and additional
28 information to conform with the requirements of the federal agency responsible for
29 national vital statistics. The form shall be the official form of a marriage license,
30 certificate of marriage and application for marriage license.

31 (b) Each form signed and issued by the register of deeds, assistant register of
32 deeds or deputy register of deeds shall constitute an original or a duplicate original.
33 Upon request, the State Registrar shall furnish a true copy of the marriage registration.
34 The copy shall have the same evidentiary value as the original.

35 (c) The register of deeds shall provide copies or abstracts of marriage certificates
36 to any person upon request. Certified copies of these certificates shall be provided only
37 to those persons described in G.S. 130A-93(c).

38 (d) Marriage certificates maintained by the local register of deeds shall be open
39 to inspection and examination."

40 **SECTION 15.** The Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop any
41 and all forms necessary for carrying out the purpose of this act and distribute them to
42 the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court in each county.

43 **SECTION 16.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2001.