

*Probate Court wishes to
extend our congratulations
and best wishes
for a happy future together.*

Judge Ralph (Ted) Winkler has



proudly served as the Hamilton County Probate Court Judge since 2015. He was reelected to a second term in November 2020. As Probate Judge, Judge Winkler presides over cases involving adoptions,

marriage licenses, estates, guardianship, mental health, name changes, and other probate matters, many of which concern families in some way. Judge Winkler is honored to hold this position of public trust and his mission is to ensure that Probate Court delivers prompt and friendly access to justice with dignity and respect for all.

Over his extensive legal career in the courtroom and 24 years of judicial service, Judge Winkler's long-standing professional dream has been to serve as Hamilton County's Probate Judge where he has had the great honor and privilege to help unite couples and join children and parents together in forever families.

LOCATION & HOURS

William Howard Taft Law Center
230 East Ninth Street, 10th Floor
Cincinnati, OH 45202

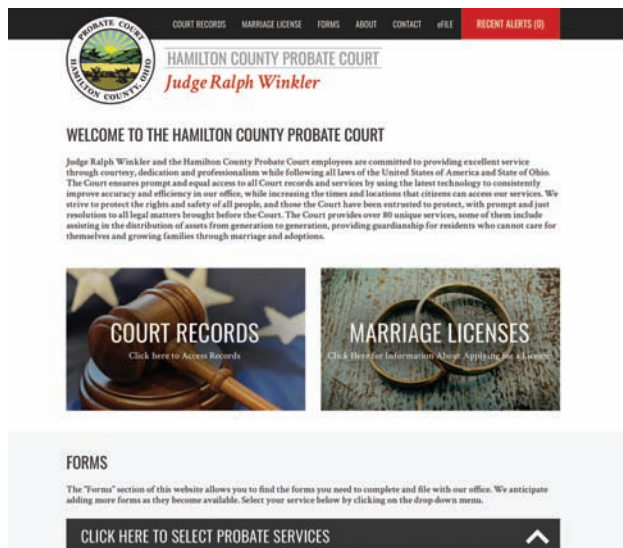
Phone: 513-946-3589

Fax: 513-946-3577

Monday- Friday 8 AM- 3:45 PM

* Note: We no longer issue licenses or conduct transactions after 3:45 PM.

**For more information about
Probate Court services,
be sure to visit our website
www.probatect.org**



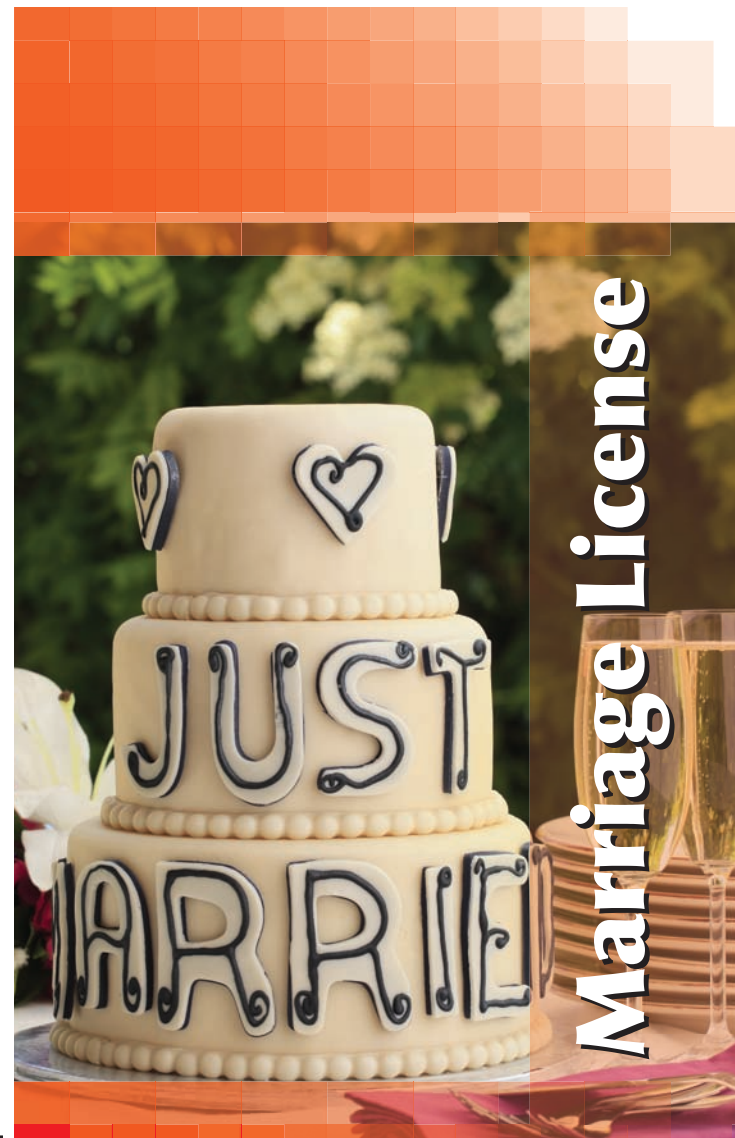
The information in this pamphlet is provided as a service of the Court and does not constitute legal advice which can only be given to you by an attorney. Many probate and family law matters involve complex and valuable rights.



Hamilton County Probate Court
Ralph Winkler, Judge

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Ralph Winkler JUDGE, PROBATE COURT
HAMILTON COUNTY, OH



**Informational guide
about obtaining a
Marriage License**

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Both applicants must appear in person to complete the license application process.
 - In rare situations, a party who is unable to appear due to illness or disability may apply via affidavit if the party meets the criteria set forth in R.C. 3101.05(A).
- The cost of the license is posted on the Court's website at [probatect.org/marriage-license](https://www.probatect.org/marriage-license). Cash, credit cards and debit cards are acceptable forms of payment. Checks are not accepted.
- Applicants must present documentary proof of age. Acceptable forms of proof include:
 - A driver's license;
 - A passport;
 - An original or certified copy of either a birth certificate or a birth record;
 - Any government or school-issued identification card showing the person's date of birth;
 - A baptismal record showing the person's date of birth;
 - An immigration record showing the person's date of birth;
 - A naturalization record showing the person's date of birth; or
 - A court record or other document or record issued by a government entity showing the person's date of birth.
- If an applicant has previously been married, the application must include information about previous marriages including:
 - The names of parties to any previous marriage and any minor children; and,
 - The jurisdiction, date and case number of the most recent divorce or dissolution decree (bringing a copy of your most recent divorce or dissolution decree is helpful).
- Ohio residents must apply in the county where they reside. Out-of-state residents must apply in the county where they intend to marry.
- Applicants must swear or affirm all information they provide is true and complete.

- **Once the license is issued, it is only valid for 60 calendar days.**
- The wedding officiant is required to return the marriage certificate to the Probate Court within 30 days of performing the marriage ceremony.

PRE-APPLICATION & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Probate Court offers an online pre-application which you may complete electronically. The pre-application process saves you time at court and ensures that when you visit our office, you have all the information required to complete the marriage license application. The pre-application may be accessed at:

<https://www.probatect.org/marriage-license/online-marriage-license-request>

The image shows a screenshot of the Hamilton County Probate Court's online marriage license request form. The header includes the court's name and Judge Ralph Winkler. The form is titled "ONLINE MARRIAGE LICENSE REQUEST" and contains a disclaimer. It is divided into two sections for "APPLICANT #1" and "APPLICANT #2". Each section has fields for first name, last name, date of birth, and social security number. There are also checkboxes for "I am a resident of Hamilton County" and "I am a resident of another state". At the bottom, there is a "SUBMIT" button.

WEDDING OFFICIANTS

Only certain persons can perform a marriage ceremony in the State of Ohio. Marriages may be performed by:

- An ordained minister of any religious society or congregation who is licensed to perform marriages by the Ohio Secretary of State;
- The Probate Court Judge;
- A municipal court judge; or,

- The mayor of a municipal corporation located in the county which issued the marriage license.

Contact information for mayors and municipal court judges who perform civil ceremonies in Hamilton County, can be found at:

<https://www.probatect.org/marriage-license#WeddingOfficiants>

MORE INFORMATION

- The application process takes about 20 to 25 minutes.
- A blood test is no longer required.
- Once the application is approved, there is no waiting period - you can marry immediately.
- There are metered parking spaces and private parking lots in close proximity to the Court building.
- **Ensure that all information is correct (e.g., name spelling) before you leave our office. There is a fee to correct a marriage license.**
- For name change information, contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) at: www.ssa.gov or visit a local SSA office.
- If either applicant is 17 years old or cannot appear due to serious illness or disability, please call our office for additional information.
- For more helpful information about your change in marital status (e.g., who to notify, property ownership), see our Informational Guide for Newly Married Couples included with your completed marriage license application documents.

