



**Judge Ralph Winkler** is a lifelong resident of Hamilton County. After passing the Bar in 1987, he focused in the practice of Probate law and served as an Assistant Hamilton County Prosecutor. In 1999, the Governor appointed him as a Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge.

In 2004, he was elected to the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas and was reelected for a second term in 2010. After winning the election for Hamilton County Probate Court Judge in November 2014, Judge Winkler began serving the public by hearing cases involving adoptions, mental health, guardianships, estates and other probate matters.



## LOCATION & HOURS

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

**Phone: 513-946-3589**

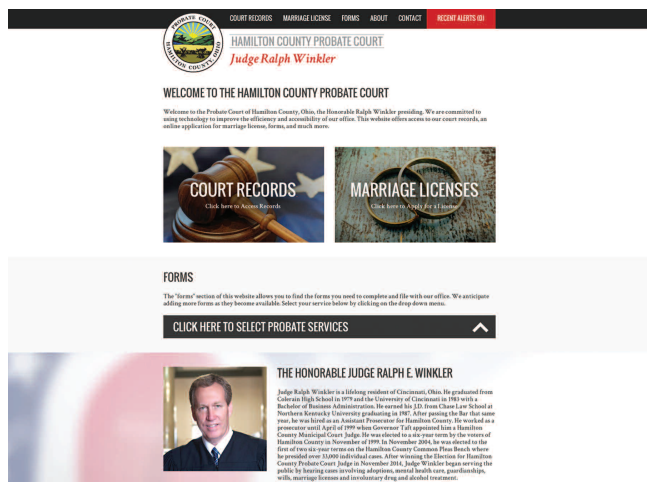
**Fax: 513-946-3581**

Monday- Friday 8 AM- 4 PM

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

## BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.probatect.org](http://www.probatect.org)



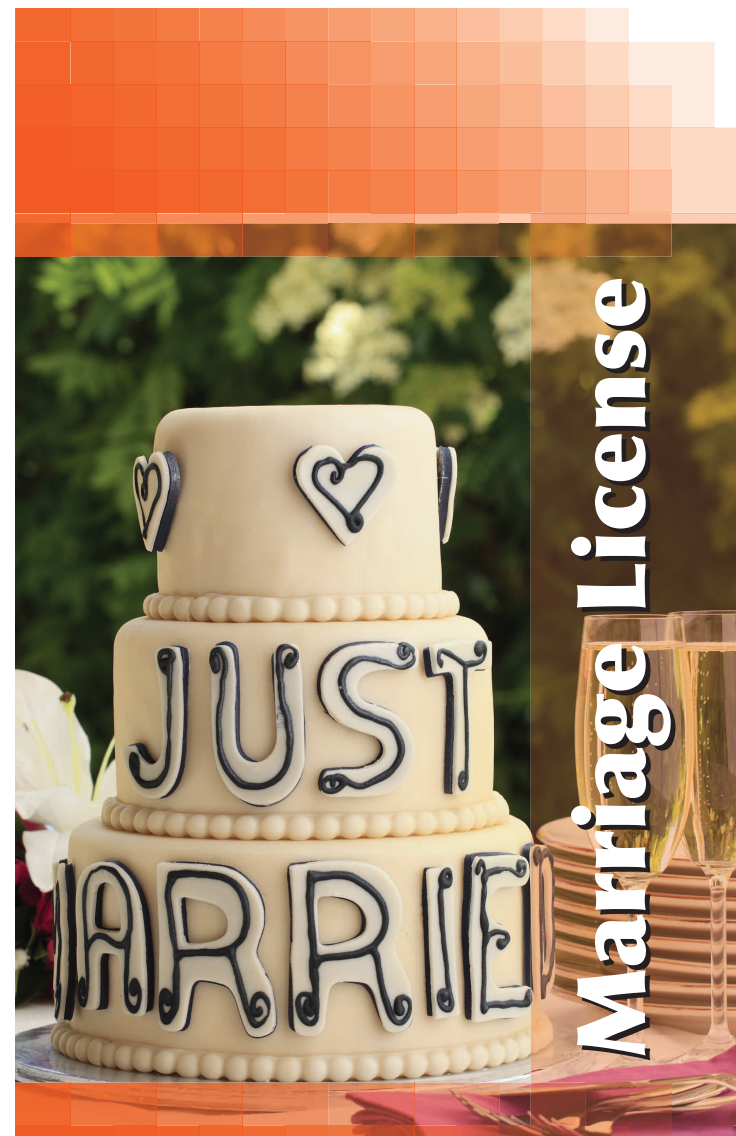
*The information in this pamphlet is provided as a service of the court and does not constitute legal advice which can only be given to you by an attorney. Many Probate and Family law matters involve complex and valuable legal rights. You should always speak with an attorney before filing any papers.*



Hamilton County Probate Court  
Ralph Winkler, Judge

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**Ralph Winkler** JUDGE, PROBATE COURT  
HAMILTON COUNTY, OH



Marriage License

Informational guide  
about obtaining a  
Marriage License

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- The applicants must be present in court at the time of the application.
- The cost of the license is \$75.00. Cash, American Express, Discover Card, Visa and Mastercard are accepted. No debit cards or checks.
- The applicants should have government issued photo ID (ie. Drivers license, State ID, Passport, Visa)
- Ohio residents must apply in the county where they reside. Out-of-state residents must apply in the county where they will be married.
- If previously divorced, a certified copy of the most recent divorce decree must be submitted to the Probate Court at the time of the application.
- The applicants must swear, or affirm, that all information provided is true and complete.
- The officiant is required to return the marriage certificate to the Probate Court within 30 days of performing the ceremony.
- **Once the license is issued it is only valid for 60 calendar days.**

## FYI

- The application process should take only 20-25 minutes and the Marriage License is valid immediately. Once the application is completed, there is no waiting period before you can marry.
- A blood test is no longer required.
- Ensure that all of the information you provide is correct before leaving our office. The fee to correct a license is \$90.00.
- There are many metered parking spaces and private parking lots in close proximity to our office.

## 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 Secretary of State;
- a Judge of a Municipal Court;
- the Mayor of a municipal corporation located in the county which issued the Marriage License; or
- the Probate Court Judge.

If you are interested in having a civil ceremony and would like contact information for Mayors and Municipal Court Judges willing to perform civil ceremonies in Hamilton County, please visit:

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

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Prior to your marriage you may wish to notify your employer to add your spouse to your medical coverage.
- Contact the Social Security Administration (**[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)**) or visit the local office for name change information.
- Notify your local Board of Elections of name



and address changes. The Hamilton County Board of Elections website is **<http://boe.hamilton-co.org>**.

- After the wedding, you should notify your car insurance provider and review the beneficiaries of your life insurance policies.
- Notify credit card companies and financial institutions of your marital status.

## WEBSITE

Be sure to visit our website

**[www.probatect.org](http://www.probatect.org)**

- Here you will find the latest information regarding Marriage Licenses.
- We offer an online pre-application which you may fill out and file electronically. This will save you time and ensure that when you visit our office you will have all of the required information.

A screenshot of the Hamilton County Probate Court's online marriage license request form. The page has a header with the court's name and a judge's name, Judge Ralph Winkler. Below the header is a section titled "ONLINE MARRIAGE LICENSE REQUEST" with a brief explanation of the process. The form is divided into two main sections: "APPLICANT #1" and "APPLICANT #2". Each section contains 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 county". At the bottom of each section is a "SUBMIT" button. The form is designed to be filled out online and submitted electronically.

- The pre-application may be accessed at the following web address:  
**<https://www.probatect.org/marriage-license/online-marriage-license-request>**