



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2020

Re: Marriage Licenses that became invalid during COVID-19 pandemic

Judge Ralph Winkler of the Hamilton County Probate Court is pleased to provide relief to couples whose marriage licenses became invalid due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a multitude of issues for Ohioans as well as Ohio's courts. As orders were issued by the Ohio Governor and Ohio Department of Health in response to the pandemic, many marriage ceremonies and celebrations had to be postponed, causing marriage licenses, which are only valid for 60 days, to become invalid. Judge Ralph Winkler appreciates that this is no fault of the couples who lawfully applied for and were issued marriage licenses in Hamilton County. In the interest of justice, he believes those invalid licenses should be reissued at no cost to the applicants.

Beginning June 15, 2020, any couple issued a marriage license between January 1, 2020 and May 31, 2020, whose license became invalid due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be offered relief from the burden of paying to have a new license issued. The court will reissue one new license, free of charge, to each couple so affected. The Court will provide this service from June 15, 2020 to June 14, 2022. As all the necessary forms and signatures are on file with the Court, only one of the couple will need to appear before the Court to have the license reissued. As with all marriage licenses, the reissued license will be valid for 60 days from the date of reissuance.

"The COVID-19 crisis has created some unexpected and undeserved hardships on couples wanting to be married. My office will reissue a new license, which will be good for 60 days, to anyone whose Hamilton County marriage license became invalid due to the crisis. We will require only one person from the couple to appear in my court to receive the reissued license." - Judge Ralph Winkler

If you should have any additional questions please contact the Marriage License office at 513-946-3564.

Thank you for sharing this story with our community.

"I will continue to do all I can to serve working families and those who cannot help themselves by providing creative, cost-effective solutions with my caring, knowledgeable staff that will keep the courts accessible. This transparency ensures justice will not be delayed or denied to the residents of Hamilton County."

Judge Ralph Winkler
