

# MARRIAGE INFORMATION FOR THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

(Updated – January 2011)

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON OBTAINING A SASKATCHEWAN MARRIAGE LICENCE

### 1. ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED IN SASKATCHEWAN?

It is mandatory for couples wishing to marry in the Province of Saskatchewan to purchase a Saskatchewan Marriage Licence. Only licences purchased in Saskatchewan are valid. The licence must be purchased at least 24 hours in advance of the marriage ceremony.

If you are getting married outside of Saskatchewan, you must contact the particular province/state/ or country's consulate or embassy directly to check on the marriage requirements in that particular area. (Example: Couples wishing to marry in the Province of Albert should contact the Alberta government to check the requirements for marriage there.)

### 2. ARE YOU BOTH OVER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN YEARS?

The age of majority in Saskatchewan is eighteen years.

If 16 or 17 years of age, a "Consent to Marriage of a Minor" form **MUST** be completed, sworn and presented to the Marriage Licence Issuer. (This form is available from the issuer or the Marriage Unit.)

If under sixteen years of age, (15 years & under), a Judge's Order **MUST** be obtained by applying to the Court. As well, a "Consent to Marriage of a Minor" form is required. Both of these documents must be presented to the Marriage Licence Issuer and attached to the licence.

### 3. HAVE EITHER ONE OF YOU BEEN MARRIED BEFORE?

If one or both parties have been divorced, they must present the **original or a court certified** copy of their final divorce papers to the Marriage Licence Issuer. Without the correct document you will not be issued a Marriage Licence. (*The preliminary documents known as the decree nisi or judgment are not acceptable.*)

- **Divorce granted after June 1/86**, the document that must be presented is the **original or a court certified** copy of the **CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE**.
- **Divorce prior to June 1/86**, the document that must be presented is the **original or a court certified** copy of the **DECREE ABSOLUTE**.

Note: Faxed copies of the original divorce papers are now being accepted BUT ONLY if they are faxed **directly from the court**, (where the divorce was granted), **to the Marriage Licence Issuer**.

- **If your divorce papers are from another country**, (and in a different language) you must have them translated into English by an independent translator at your own expense.
- **If widowed**, you must know the exact date and place of death of your former spouse, otherwise, you must provide a death certificate.

**\*Note –Church Annulment papers are not acceptable as proof of divorce**

Do not accept divorce documents from British Columbia, which are listed as "Orders".  
Only accept the **original or a court certified** copy of their final divorce papers!

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#### **4. WHERE DO I PURCHASE A MARRIAGE LICENCE?**

Marriage licences can be purchased from a variety of jewellery stores, bridal boutiques, and insurance brokers. Ensure you call a business near you to inquire if they are an issuer of marriage licences first. In smaller centres, check with your town office as there are some town administrators who issue marriage licences.

#### **5. HOW DO I PURCHASE A MARRIAGE LICENCE?**

**Both parties to the marriage must appear together, at least one day (24 hours) prior to the marriage** to purchase the licence. The marriage licence is valid the day **after** it is issued, and once the licence becomes valid, it remains **valid for three months (90 days)**.

In the event that one of the parties to the marriage is unable to attend upon the issuer due to incarceration, hospitalization or other extenuating circumstance, the party unable to attend must provide a sworn declaration called a 'Declaration of Non Attendance Before an Issuer'. This form may be obtained from a licence issuer or by contacting the Marriage Unit.

- The cost of the marriage licence is \$60.00.
- If you or your prospective spouse are unable to understand or speak English, an independent interpreter must be provided by yourselves and be present when you obtain the marriage licence from the marriage licence issuer.

#### **Identification**

- The Marriage Licence Issuer is required to obtain **2 pieces of identification** that clearly identify who the individual is and their date of birth. One of which must be a Birth Certificate.
- A **Birth Certificate** (as proof of age) is required along with one of the following:
- If you are a **Canadian Citizen**, present your driver's licence. If a driver's licence is not available, present other government issued photo identification to the marriage licence issuer.
- If you are a **Resident Outside of Canada**, present your passport to the marriage licence issuer.
- If you are a resident outside of Canada and a Birth Certificate is not available, you must present your Passport along with a work/student visa, **or** driver's licence, **or** other suitable government issued ID.

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#### **Marriages may be solemnized in Saskatchewan by:**

##### **Religious Ceremonies**

Religious ceremonies are performed by clergy who are licenced/registered with the Province of Saskatchewan to perform wedding ceremonies.

##### **Civil Ceremonies**

Civil ceremonies are performed by marriage commissioners, who have been appointed by the member of the Executive Council, to whom, the Act is assigned. Marriage commissioners must be Saskatchewan residents.

For a complete listing of marriage commissioners and licence issuers in your area please check the Government of Saskatchewan web-site at [www.justice.gov.sk.ca](http://www.justice.gov.sk.ca) or contact (306) 787-3869.

##### **Marriage Certificates**

Two to three weeks after the wedding ceremony, couples may order their 'official' marriage certificate from **Vital Statistics**. Please contact **Vital Statistics** directly at (306)798-0641 or toll free 1-866-275-4721.

***If you require further information, contact the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, Marriage Unit, Room 323, 3085 Albert Street, REGINA SK S4S 0B1.***