Fairfax Circuit Court

SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY AND THE CITY OF FAIRFAX

OUT-OF-STATE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS THAT DO NOT "ORDAIN" RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Authorization process to perform a one-time religious wedding ceremony in Virginia pursuant to Va. Code § 20-26

This Petition should be completed by individuals authorized to perform religious weddings by religious organizations that do not "ordain" religious leaders—such as Sikhs, Quakers, or members of the Church of Christ—and who also reside outside the Commonwealth of Virginia. Court authorization must occur before the wedding ceremony. Note: if you are a member of a religious organization with ordained leadership, please complete the § 20-23 form.

The Fairfax Circuit Court's authorization for out-of-state ordained religious leaders is valid for one specific date for the religious wedding ceremony. By Order of this Court, no bond is required.

The Fairfax Circuit Court Clerk's office must receive the following to initiate the authorization process:

Filing Requirements:

- Completed notarized petition. The petition can be filled in online and printed. Please use the print button on the PDF form and not the internet browser print button.
- A **notarized** letter on official stationery, signed by an official of the Petitioner's local religious society, stating that the prospective celebrant is in good standing with the religious society. This letter must also explain that the religious organization does not require ordination but that the Petitioner is authorized by the religious society to perform religious wedding ceremonies.
- Filing fee must be paid at time of filing. **Filing Fees:** See Current Fee Schedule for Marriage Celebrant Petition on page 7 at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/circuit/pdf/CCR-A-20.pdf.
  - **No personal checks accepted.**
  - If filing by mail, payment is to be made by money order, or cashier's check. Make cashier's check or money order payable to the Clerk of the Circuit Court.
  - If filing in person at the Civil Intake counter, payment can be made by cash, money order, cashier's check or Visa and MasterCard. Credit Cards will be processed with a 4% convenience fee being assessed.

Petition and required documents, accompanied by the Clerk's fee, should be mailed to:

Fairfax County Circuit Court
Attn: Civil Intake, Room 319
4110 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, VA 22030

Upon filing the petition and order for appointment to perform marriage ceremonies in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the order will be submitted to the Judge's chambers for entry. No hearing is required unless directed by a judge. **Please allow approximately 10 business days after filing for processing.**

Notification of applicant will be made by email or phone. A certified copy of the signed order will be sent to the home address provided on the petition, unless the applicant specifies otherwise.

Any questions regarding this process should be directed to 703-691-7320, press 3, 0.

V I R G I N I A

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX

RE: _____ **CM-20_____-_____**
(Petitioner's Name) (Case number assigned by the court)

PETITION TO PERFORM A ONE-TIME RELIGIOUS MARRIAGE CEREMONY PURSUANT TO VA CODE § 20-26

COMES NOW the petitioner seeking authorization to perform a one-time religious marriage ceremony pursuant to Virginia Code § 20-26.

Petitioner's religious organization's name: _____

Petitioner's religious denomination: _____

Petitioner's religious organization's address: _____
(Street Number, Street Address)

_____ Phone number: _____ _____
(City, State, Zip Code)

Petitioner's home address: _____
(Street Number, Street Address)

_____ Petitioner's home phone number: _____
(City, State and Zip Code)

Petitioner's email address: _____

Spouse#1/Bride:_____ Phone #: _____

Spouse#2/Groom: _____ Phone #: _____

Location of Ceremony in Virginia: _____

Date of Wedding: _____
(Change of date will require a new petition and new court order)

_____
Signature of Petitioner

COMMONWEALTH/STATE OF_____
CITY/COUNTY OF _____

I, the undersigned Notary Public in and for the above, do hereby certify that before me appeared _____, whose name is signed to the foregoing Petition and acknowledged the same under oath before me. Given under my hand and seal this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

_____
Notary Public

Notary Registration Number:_____
My Commission Expires: _____

Print Clear All Data