

AN ACT

Bill 20-118
Act 20-152
effective
August 6,
2013

Codification
District of
Columbia
Official Code
2001 Edition

Marriage
Officiant
Amendment
Act of 2013

To amend An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia to establish the authority of a civil celebrant, a temporary officiant, members of the Council, the Mayor, and the parties to the marriage to solemnize a marriage.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Marriage Officiant Amendment Act of 2013.”

Amend
§ 46-406

Sec. 2. Section 1288 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1391; D.C. Official Code § 46-406), is amended as follows:

(a) Subsection (a) is amended as follows:

(1) Re-designate paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(2) A new paragraph (1) is added to read as follows:

“(1) “Civil celebrant” means a person of a secular or non-religious organization who performs marriage ceremonies.

(3) A new paragraph (4) is added to read as follows:

“(4) “Temporary officiant” means a person authorized by the Clerk of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia (“Court”) to solemnize a specific marriage. The person’s authority to solemnize that marriage shall expire upon the filing of the marriage license, pursuant to section 1293.”.

(b) Subsection (b) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) For the purpose of preserving the evidence of marriages in the District of Columbia, a marriage authorized under Chapter Forth-Three of this act, An Act To increase the age of consent for marriage in the District of Columbia to eighteen years of age in the case of males and sixteen years of age in the case of females, approved August 12, 1937 (50 Stat. 626; D.C. Official Code § 46-409), and An Act To require premarital examinations in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, approved October 15, 1966 (80 Stat. 959; D.C. Official Code § 46-416 *et seq.*), may be solemnized by the following persons at least 18 years of age at the time of the marriage:

“(1) A judge or retired judge of any court of record;

“(2) The Clerk of the Court or such deputy clerks of the Court as may, in writing, be designated by the Clerk and approved by the Chief Judge of the Court;

“(3) A minister, priest, rabbi, or authorized person of any religious denomination or society;

“(4) For any religious society which does not by its own custom require the intervention of a minister for the celebration of marriages, a marriage may be solemnized in the

manner prescribed and practiced in that religious society, with the license issued to, and returns to be made by, a person appointed by the religious society for that purpose;

“(5) A civil celebrant;

“(6) A temporary officiant;

“(7) Members of the Council;

“(8) The Mayor of the District of Columbia; or

“(9) The parties to the marriage.”.

(c) New subsections (b-1) and (b-2) are added to read as follows:

“(b-1) All persons authorized by subsection (b) of this section to solemnize marriages shall comply with the requirements of section 1293.

“(b-2) The Court shall charge a reasonable registration fee for authorization to solemnize marriages; provided, that the registration fee for a temporary officiant shall not exceed \$25.”.

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02 (c)(3)).

Sec. 4. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.