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## **PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES IN MAINE**

Maine law, 19-A MRS §655 specifies persons authorized to solemnize marriages in Maine. The following persons are authorized to solemnize marriages in Maine:

If a resident of this State:

- ✓ A justice or judge;
- ✓ A lawyer admitted to the Maine Bar; or
- ✓ A marriage officiant licensed under [Title 5, section 90-G](#);

Whether a resident or nonresident of this State and whether or not a citizen of the United States:

- ✓ An ordained minister of the gospel. (See # 2 below).
- ✓ A cleric engaged in the service of the religious body to which the cleric belongs; or
- ✓ A person licensed to preach by an association of ministers, religious seminary, or ecclesiastical body; and
- ✓ A nonresident of the State who has the authority to perform civil marriages (not religious) in their resident State and has applied for a temporary registration certificate issued by the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics. (See # 3 below).

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)**

1. *How do I find a marriage officiant in Maine?*

An online search may be made for a marriage officiant who is licensed in the State of Maine on the Secretary of State's website at [https://apps1.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/notary/search/marriage\\_officiant.pl](https://apps1.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/notary/search/marriage_officiant.pl).

2. *What are the credentials for an ordained minister?*

An ordained minister is a person authorized by a church or other religious body to carry out various spiritual operations such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals, and more generally providing spiritual guidance to the local community. A person ordained through an online process is still considered an ordained minister, at least for the purpose of marrying a couple in the State of Maine. Ordained ministers do not need to complete a temporary registration certificate.

3. *Can a nonresident who is authorized to perform a marriage in their State perform a marriage in Maine?*

Yes, a nonresident may apply for a one-time temporary registration certificate to perform a marriage in Maine. The application and instructions on how to apply may be found on Data, Research, and Vital Statistics website at <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/data-research/vital-records/forms/index.shtml>.

## **Questions?**

Please contact Data, Research, and Vital Statistics at 1-888-664-9491 or (207) 287-6490 or email questions to [Rebecca.Ashley@maine.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Ashley@maine.gov).