

CRITERIA TO PERFORM MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

The Utah State Legislature has designated those individuals who are authorized to perform marriage ceremonies within the State of Utah. According to the Legislature

- (1) Marriages may be solemnized by the following persons only:
 - (a) Ministers, rabbis, or priests of any religious denomination who are:
 - (i) in regular communion with any religious society ; and
 - (ii) 18 years of age or older;
 - (b) Native American spiritual advisors;
 - (c) the governor;
 - (d) mayors of municipalities or county executives;
 - (e) a justice, judge, or commissioner of a court of record;
 - (f) a judge of a court not of record of the state;
 - (g) judges or magistrates of the United States;
 - (h) the county clerk of any county in the state, if the clerk chooses to solemnize marriages;
 - (i) the president of the Senate;
 - (j) the speaker of the Senate;
 - (k) the speaker of the House of Representatives; or
 - (l) a judge or magistrate who holds office in Utah when retired, under rules set by the Supreme Court.
- (2) A person authorized under Subsection (1) who solemnizes a marriage shall give to the couple married a certificate of marriage that shows the:
 - (a) name of the county from which the license is issued; and
 - (b) the date of the license's issuance.
- (3) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Judge or magistrate of the United States" means:
 - (i) a justice of the United States Supreme Court;
 - (ii) a judge of a court of appeals;
 - (iii) a judge of a district court;
 - (iv) a judge of any court created by an act of Congress the judges of which are entitled to hold office during good behavior;
 - (v) a judge of a bankruptcy court;
 - (vi) a judge of a tax court ; or
 - (vii) a United States magistrate.
 - (b) (i) "Native American spiritual advisor" means a person who:
 - (A) (I) leads, instructs, or facilitates a Native American religious ceremony or service; or
 - (II) provides religious counseling; and
 - (B) is recognized as a spiritual advisor by a federally recognized Native American tribe.
 - (ii) "Native American spiritual advisor" includes a sweat lodge leader, medicine person, traditional religious practitioner, or holy man or woman.
- (4) Notwithstanding any other provision in law, no person authorized under Subsection (1) to solemnize a marriage may delegate or deputize another person to perform the function of solemnizing a marriage, except that only full-time employees of the office responsible for the issuance of marriage licenses may be deputized.



The person you select to perform your marriage ceremony will need to be a person identified in this list. If you have concerns with regard to the authority of this person, particularly if the person is a "minister, priest or rabbi", you will need to discuss this person's authority with that individual or with representatives of the religious denomination to determine whether this person is duly authorized to perform the ceremony according to the tenets of that religious society