

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 HOUSE BILL 3472

By: Lawson

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to marriage and family; amending 43
8 O.S. 2021, Section 7, which relates to the
9 solemnization of marriages; providing exception;
providing requirement; and providing an effective
date.

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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 43 O.S. 2021, Section 7, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 7. A. All marriages must be contracted by a formal
16 ceremony performed or solemnized in the presence of at least two
17 adult, competent persons as witnesses, by a judge or retired judge
18 of any court in this state, or an ordained or authorized preacher or
19 minister of the Gospel, priest or other ecclesiastical dignitary of
20 any denomination who has been duly ordained or authorized by the
21 church to which he or she belongs to preach the Gospel, or a rabbi
22 and who is at least eighteen (18) years of age.

1 B. 1. The judge shall place his or her order of appointment on
2 file with the office of the court clerk of the county in which he or
3 she resides.

4 2. The Except as provided by paragraph 5 of this subsection,
5 the preacher, minister, priest, rabbi, or ecclesiastical dignitary
6 who is a resident of this state shall have filed, in the office of
7 the court clerk of the county in which he or she resides, a copy of
8 the credentials or authority from his or her church or synagogue
9 authorizing him or her to solemnize marriages.

10 3. The Except as provided by paragraph 5 of this subsection,
11 the preacher, minister, priest, rabbi, or ecclesiastical dignitary
12 who is not a resident of this state, but has complied with the laws
13 of the state of which he or she is a resident, shall have filed
14 once, in the office of the court clerk of the county in which he or
15 she intends to perform or solemnize a marriage, a copy of the
16 credentials or authority from his or her church or synagogue
17 authorizing him or her to solemnize marriages.

18 4. The filing by resident or nonresident preachers, ministers,
19 priests, rabbis, ecclesiastical dignitaries or judges shall be
20 effective in and for all counties of this state; provided, no fee
21 shall be charged for such recording.

22 5. Any preacher, minister, priest, rabbi, or ecclesiastical
23 dignitary may submit a sworn affidavit to the office of the court
24 clerk of the county in which he or she intends to perform or

1 solemnize a marriage in lieu of filing a copy of the credentials or
2 authority from his or her church or synagogue authorizing him or her
3 to solemnize marriages. The sworn affidavit shall list the
4 credentials or authority authorizing him or her to solemnize
5 marriages.

6 C. No person herein authorized to perform or solemnize a
7 marriage ceremony shall do so unless the license issued therefor be
8 first delivered into his or her possession nor unless he or she has
9 good reason to believe the persons presenting themselves before him
10 or her for marriage are the identical persons named in the license,
11 and for whose marriage the same was issued, and that there is no
12 legal objection or impediment to such marriage.

13 D. Marriages between persons belonging to the society called
14 Friends, or Quakers, the spiritual assembly of the Baha'is, or the
15 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which have no ordained
16 minister, may be solemnized by the persons and in the manner
17 prescribed by and practiced in any such society, church, or
18 assembly.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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21 58-2-9280 CMA 12/27/21

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