

Northern Virginia Wedding Officiant Information

Who may perform? – A minister of any religious denomination must be authorized by a circuit court to celebrate the rites of matrimony. To obtain such authorization, the minister must produce proof of his ordination (copy of ordination or commissioning certificate) and regular communion with the religious society of which he is a reputed member (a notarized letter from the Regional Office). In addition, the court in each city and county has appointed persons who are eligible to perform civil marriage ceremonies. For marriages between persons belonging to any religious society which has no ordained minister, refer to Section 20-26, Code of Virginia, Domestic Relations.

Clergy affiliated with a church in the Commonwealth of Virginia and clergy affiliated with a church outside the Commonwealth of Virginia who wish to perform a wedding ceremony in Virginia, must receive authorization through a Virginia Circuit Court prior to performing the ceremony. This is pursuant to §20-23 and §20-26 of the Code of Virginia. Please allow approximately 10 business days for processing

Several Circuit Court Judges do not recognize online ordinations such as the Universal Life Church, American Marriage Ministries or other similar online organizations pursuant to Cramer v. Commonwealth.

FORMS

Virginia Clergy - With Ordination Authorization Information

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/circuit/sites/circuit/files/assets/documents/pdf/20-23-va-clergy-ordained.pdf>

Out of State Clergy - With Ordination Authorization Information

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/circuit/sites/circuit/files/assets/documents/pdf/20-23-out-of-state-ordained.pdf>