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Requirements of a License

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Requirements of a License

Reference Number: CTAS-424

Before being joined in marriage, the parties must present to the minister or other official performing the ceremony a license issued by a county clerk in the State of Tennessee, authorizing the solemnization of a marriage between the parties. The license may be issued by the county clerk in any county in Tennessee, without regard to the residence of the parties or the county where the ceremony is to be performed. A marriage license is valid for thirty (30) days from the date of issuance by the county clerk. T.C.A.

§ 36-3-103. A marriage license may be issued to persons otherwise complying with the requirements of the law who intend to have their marriage solemnized outside the state of Tennessee. *Ops. Tenn. Att’y Gen. 06-110 (July 12, 2006)* and 85-243 (9/18/85). A valid marriage will not result from a ceremony performed in Tennessee without first obtaining a marriage license. *Stovall v. City of Memphis*, 2004 WL 1872896 (Tenn. Ct. App. 2004); *Op. Tenn. Att’y Gen. 90-49 (4/9/90)*.

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