

of a religious order or body authorized by the rules and customs of said order or body to join persons in marriage.

No person within this State shall be joined in marriage until a license shall have been obtained from the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the county in which the marriage is to be performed, or if in Baltimore City, from the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas.

The license required by this Article shall be in the following form, to wit: State of Maryland and County of ..... To any minister of the Gospel, or other officer or person authorized by the laws of the State to solemnize marriage; You are hereby authorized to join together in the holy estate of matrimony according to the rules and ceremonies of your church, society or religious sect and the laws of this State, or according to the laws of this State, A. B., whose place of residence is.....; whose age is.....; color .....; and who is (state here whether single, widower, or divorced, as the case may be), and C. D., whose place of residence is....., color....., and who is (state here whether single, widow or divorced, as the case may be), and who are..... (state here also whether the contracting parties are in any way related). Given under my hand and seal of the Circuit Court for ..... County (or the Court of Common Pleas of Baltimore City) at..... this..... day of..... A. D., one thousand nine hundred and ..... The license shall have appended to it two certificates framed to correspond with said license, which shall be in form as follows: I hereby certify that on this ..... day of....., one thousand nine hundred and..... at....., A. B., and C. D. were by me united in marriage in accordance with the license issued by the Clerk of the..... Court for..... County (or City), Maryland, which certificate shall be signed by the minister, or other person who performed the ceremony, giving his name and official character; one of said certificates shall be handed to the contracting parties and the other shall within five days from the date of the marriage be returned to the Clerk of the Court from which it was issued.

Nothing in this section shall be construed as interfering in any way with the right of any particular religious denomination to join persons in marriage according to the rules and customs of said denomination, it being the intent of this section merely to require the issuance of the aforesaid license prior to the performance of any marriage ceremony and to require a signing and return of the aforesaid certificates by the minister or other official of a religious body or order performing said ceremony.