

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, either by the minister or other person who performed the ceremony, or, in the event of his death or resignation by any qualified officer of the church or other person in a position so to return the same.

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.

6.

(a) Before the clerk of any of the courts issues any license he shall examine one of the contracting parties to the marriage, under oath, who shall appear personally before the clerk and make application for the license. The clerk shall ascertain the following: (1) the full name of each party; (2) the place of residence of each party; (3) the age of each party; (4) the marital status of each party, whether previously married or single; (5) whether related or not, if so, in which degree of relationship; (6) if one or both of the parties has been previously married, the date and place of all deaths and judicial determinations terminating all former marriages of each party; which facts upon the payment of one dollar (\$1.00) as an application fee shall be set out in printed form to be signed by the person making the application, and no such license to marry shall be delivered by the clerk until after the expiration of forty-eight (48) hours from the time application is made therefor. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the contracting parties are not residents of the county where the marriage is to be performed, the clerk, in lieu of a personal examination under oath, shall accept a notarized statement from one of the contracting parties to the marriage sworn to under oath before a clerk of court or other comparable official in the county, state, province or country where the party resides specifying those facts required in this section. The clerk of the county in which the marriage is to be performed shall receive the payment of \$2 in addition to all other applicable fees, and a license to marry may not be delivered by the clerk until after the expiration of 48 hours from the time a notarized application statement is received by the clerk. Any judge of the circuit court of the county in which the application is made [or, if made in Baltimore City, any judge of the Court of Common Pleas], for good and sufficient cause shown, may, by an order in writing signed by him,