

Legally speaking.....

# Did you know?

Revised  
August 2013

## MARRIAGE LAWS IN BC

### Getting a marriage licence

- ◆ Available from any Marriage License Issuer. Only one member of the couple is required to apply in person, but you will need to provide primary identification (birth certificate, IMM/Immigration form Permanent Resident or Citizenship card) confirming full legal name, date and place of birth for both parties. To find an issuer location, visit [http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/cgi-bin/search/marriage\\_offices.cgi](http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/cgi-bin/search/marriage_offices.cgi)
- ◆ You will have to pay a fee of \$100 for the Marriage Licence, valid only in B.C.
- ◆ The licence is valid for three months after it is issued.

### Ceremonies

- ◆ Can be either a civil marriage, performed by a marriage commissioner or a religious ceremony performed by a religious representative.
- ◆ You may decide to have a civil ceremony performed first and then have a religious one as well.
- ◆ Must be held in a public manner and before at least two witnesses.

### Objections to Marriage

Anyone can file an objection if they believe there is some reason to stop the marriage. To do so, they must file a *caveat* with the issuer of marriage licences. For the marriage to take place, the caveat must be withdrawn or the marriage issuer office can conclude (based on the circumstances) that the licence should be issued.

### Age and other requirements

- ◆ If you are under the age of 19 years, you will need the consent of your parents or guardians.
- ◆ If you feel that consent is being unreasonably withheld, you can apply to BC Supreme Court for permission.
- ◆ If you are under the age of 16 years, you cannot marry unless you have permission of BC Supreme Court.
- ◆ Both parties must be unmarried.
- ◆ You cannot marry anyone in your immediate family or near relation. For example, you cannot marry someone in your direct lineal line of descent (grandparent, parent, or child) or your sibling, half-brother or half-sister.

### For More Information:

The Lawyer Referral Service:

Lower Mainland:

604-687-3221

Within BC:

1-800-663-1919

30 minute consultation with a lawyer for \$25.

Vital Statistics Agency:

<http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca>

**See Fact Sheets: Marriage Annulment and Marriage Agreements**



North Shore  
Community Resources  
*We Connect the Community!*

This information sheet is produced by

NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY RESOURCES SOCIETY with financial assistance from the NOTARY FOUNDATION.