

Cuyahoga County Probate Court is pleased to announce that we have issued our first marriage license remotely via an online video call. We believe we are the first Probate Court in the State of Ohio to have been able to successfully issue a marriage license without the parties having to appear in-person at the Probate Court.

After making the difficult public safety decision on March 15, 2020 to restrict the issuance of in-person marriage licenses to only those with an immediate need, our IT department has been working around the clock to come up with an online solution. After testing the process in-house, on March 19, 2020, we converted one of our in-person appointments to an online appointment and successfully issued the marriage license without the necessity of the applicants appearing in Court.

Since March 15, the Probate Court Marriage Department has issued six paper licenses to couples with an immediate need. No one with an immediate need, including couples with weddings scheduled within the next 7-14 days, as well as military personnel and first responders, has been turned away.

Starting Monday, March 23, 2020, all couples who can establish they have a wedding ceremony scheduled within the next 30 days and can verify they have an officiant able to perform the marriage, can pre-register for a marriage license online via our website. The pre-registration will direct them to contact the Marriage Department to set up their online appointment. One appointment will be scheduled per hour per day, with some time slots reserved for those applicants with an immediate need. It is important to note, however, that to have the marriage license issued immediately, applicants must have a valid email address and access to a computer and printer.

This procedure has been implemented in order to issue marriage licenses during the COVID-19 pandemic only. Once business operations resume as usual, licenses will again be issued in-person and not remotely.

Questions regarding this press release should be directed to Jennifer Alexander, Magistrate and Deputy Court Administrator, on behalf of Presiding and Administrative Judge Anthony J. Russo, and Judge Laura J. Gallagher, at [jalexander@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:jalexander@cuyahogacounty.us) or (216)443-8262.