Marriage

Other helpful resources:

Franklin County Board of Elections	614-525-3100
Franklin County Clerk of Courts – Auto Title Dept.	614-525-3090
Franklin County Municipal Court Civil Marriage Ceremony Information	614-645-8162
Columbus Bar Association	614-221-4112
CBA Lawyer Referral Service	614-221-0754
Ohio BMV	614-752-7500
Ohio State Bar Association	614-487-2050
Immigration & Naturalization Service	1-800-375-5283
Social Security Administration	614-469-6850
or Toll Free	1-800-772-1213

This publication has been prepared by the Franklin County Probate Court to provide general information regarding your marriage. It should not be considered a legal reference. If you have a legal question concerning your marriage, you should consult an attorney.

Robert G. Montgomery
Probate Judge

FRANKLIN COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PROBATE DIVISION

Franklin County Probate Court

Franklin County Courthouse
373 South High Street • 22nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6311

HOURS
Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Cashier closes at 4:30 p.m.)

MARRIAGE INFORMATION LINE
614-525-3898

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate

GENERAL INFORMATION
614-525-3894

Robert G. Montgomery Probate Judge

Marriage

Franklin County Probate Court

Marriage

Notifying Others of Your Marriage and Name Change

When you marry, it is important to notify certain government agencies and entities you regularly conduct business with of this change.
For instance, you'll want to notify your employers of your change in marital status. If appropriate, you might adjust your federal and state income tax withholdings and the beneficiaries of any retirement plans or insurance policies. Additionally, some contracts, divorce decrees and domestic

court rules require notice of a change in marital status.
If you take your spouse's last name, or you decide to hyphenate your last names, key agencies and businesses may accept your new name simply by notifying them.
Among the key agencies and businesses you should notify are: Social Security Administration, Ohio BMV, county board of elections, any school you or your children attend, and your financial institutions.
If any of these agencies or businesses does not accept your new name simply from your notice to them, you may need to apply for a legal name change in the probate court in your county of residence.

Update Your Insurance Coverage

It is important to let your insurance company know that you are married and to review your policies with respect to the following types of insurance:

- Homeowners/Renters
- Automobile
- Health
- Disability
- Life

Property Rights after You Are Married

In Ohio, individual ownership of real estate or personal property by each spouse does not automatically change into joint or co-ownership after marriage. However, after marriage each spouse automatically acquires certain interests in the property of the other, including:

- the right to be supported by the other if necessary;
- the right to a dower interest in the real estate of the other;
- the right to remain in the residence for one year after the death of the spouse; and,
- the right to share in the deceased spouse's probate estate.

As a newly married couple, you should consider how your property is titled and discuss this important issue with your attorney.

Estate Planning

You should review your estate plans, including wills, with your attorney. Consideration should be given to the ownership of existing bank accounts, safe deposit boxes, and other investments.
A properly drawn estate plan assures that:

- your property will be distributed as you desire;
- you may nominate a person to serve as executor to manage and settle your estate;
- you may nominate a person to serve as the guardian of your minor children; and,
- certain administrative requirements may be simplified.

If you do not have an estate plan, your property will be distributed as the law dictates and not necessarily how you would have provided.
Ohio law recognizes living wills and durable powers of attorney for health care. A living will is your directive on the use of life sustaining treatment should you be terminally ill or in a permanently unconscious state. A durable power of attorney for health care allows you to select another person to make medical decisions for you should you become unable to do so. Forms are available from this court, the Ohio State Bar Association, your attorney, and other sources.

Retention of Records

It is wise to keep important documents in a safe and secure location. Discuss with your spouse the location of your important documents. You also may wish to advise other family members about the location of your important documents. Such documents might include: wills, birth certificates, deeds, insurance policies, business agreements, court decrees, stocks, bonds, bank records, recent tax returns, military service papers, funeral instructions, cemetery plot deeds, directions for human organ donations, powers of attorney and living wills.

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