



Saint Louis County

Public Records & Property Valuation

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Marriage applications to be accepted for same sex couples beginning July 26

The St. Louis County Recorder's Office will begin accepting marriage license applications for same-sex couples beginning July 26, 2013. This will allow couples to fulfill the mandatory five-day waiting period and be able to marry on August 1, the day the Freedom to Marry law takes effect.

Marriage licenses will be available for pick up beginning August 1, during regular business hours at any of the four St. Louis County Recorder's offices in Duluth, Virginia, Hibbing and Ely. Hours of operation vary by location, and are listed on the County's website.

"We have discussed the timeline with our County Attorney's Office, and feel it is in the best interest of all to wait until July 26 to begin accepting marriage license applications," said Mark Monacelli, St. Louis County director of Public Records and Property Valuation. "Our concern is that legal challenges could be filed in instances where applications were accepted prior to this date, and so we are proceeding with an abundance of caution to protect couples and the county from that happening."

The cost of a marriage license, which is set by state statute, is \$115. For any couple that completes 12 hours of premarital counseling, the fee is \$40.

The new applications, which remove reference to applicants being "a man and the other is a woman" are now available online. Couples wishing to download an application, check the hours of operation of the Recorder's Office nearest them, or find answers to other commonly asked questions may do so by visiting stlouiscountymn.gov/marriagelicense, or by calling (218) 726-2599.

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