

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 HOUSE BILL 2423

By: May

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to marriage; amending 43 O.S. 2021,
8 Section 7, which relates to solemnization of
9 marriages; modifying who may perform formal
10 ceremonies; and providing an effective date.

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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 43 O.S. 2021, Section 7, as
14 amended by Section 3, Chapter 241, O.S.L. 2022 (43 O.S. Supp. 2022,
15 Section 7), is amended to read as follows:

16 Section 7. A. All marriages must be contracted by a formal
17 ceremony performed or solemnized in the presence of at least two
18 adult, competent persons as witnesses, by a judge or retired judge
19 of any court in this state, or an ordained or authorized preacher or
20 minister of the Gospel, priest, deacon, elder, or other
21 ecclesiastical dignitary of any denomination who has been duly
22 ordained or authorized by the church to which he or she belongs to
23 preach the Gospel, or a rabbi and who is at least eighteen (18)
24 years of age.

1 B. 1. The judge shall place his or her order of appointment on
2 file with the office of the court clerk of the county in which he or
3 she resides.

4 2. The preacher, minister, priest, deacon, elder, rabbi, or
5 ecclesiastical dignitary shall certify on the marriage certificate
6 that he or she holds credentials or authority from his or her church
7 or synagogue authorizing him or her to solemnize marriages.

8 C. No person herein authorized to perform or solemnize a
9 marriage ceremony shall do so unless he or she has good reason to
10 believe the persons presenting themselves before him or her for
11 marriage are the identical persons named in the license, and for
12 whose marriage the same was issued, and that there is no legal
13 objection or impediment to such marriage.

14 D. Marriages between persons belonging to the society called
15 Friends, or Quakers, the spiritual assembly of the Baha'is, or the
16 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which have no ordained
17 minister, may be solemnized by the persons and in the manner
18 prescribed by and practiced in any such society, church, or
19 assembly.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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