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Jefferson County Clerk advises residents same-sex Marriage Licenses now being issued

Beaumont, TX – Jefferson County Clerk, Carolyn Guidry, advises residents same-sex marriage licenses are now being issued in her office.

“In Jefferson County we are working to make sure our residents understand the latest Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage now requires the State of Texas to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples who otherwise qualify under the law,” said Carolyn Guidry.

The County Clerk’s office will begin issuing same sex marriage licenses today, June 29, 2015 at 10:00 a.m at the downtown Jefferson Courthouse Location, 1085 Pearl Street, Beaumont. In an effort to accommodate expected demand, the Jefferson County Clerk’s Office will be open extended hours on regular business days beginning on June 30, 2015, through July 10, 2015, from 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Each applicant should bring valid identification (driver’s license, certified copy of birth certificate, DPS issued identification card or a passport) when applying for the marriage license. Both applicants must swear or affirm that the information provided is correct and both sign the application for the marriage license.

Formal marriage licenses are valid for 90 days and the application fee is \$82.00. Couples who have attended a Twogether in Texas marriage training class pay a reduced application fee of \$22.00. The acceptable forms of payment are cash or credit card only.

A seventy-two hour waiting period is required from the time the license is issued until the ceremony may be performed unless:

- An applicant is on active duty as a member of the US armed forces,
- An applicant is not a member of the US armed forces but works for the US Department of Defense as an employee or under a contract,
- Applicants obtains a written waiver from an appropriate court,
- Applicants attended Twogether in Texas marriage training.

Persons authorized to conduct a marriage ceremony under state law are:

- Licensed or ordained Christian minister or priest,
- Jewish Rabbi,
- Officer of religious organization authorized to conduct marriage ceremonies,
- Various judges – both active and retired

"By preparing now, couples can help make sure the application process goes smoothly when visiting our office," said Guidry.

For more information couples can visit the Jefferson County Clerk’s webpage <http://www.co.jefferson.tx.us/cclerk/ccindex.htm>, open title [Requirements for Obtaining a Marriage License](#) or call 409-835-8475, Option 1, for more information.