

LOUISIANA VITAL RECORDS REGISTRY
OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

MARRIAGE OFFICIANT – 72-HOUR WAIVER

A marriage officiant may not perform a marriage ceremony until seventy-two (72) hours have elapsed since the issuance of the marriage license (R.S. 9:241).

However, a judge or justice of the peace authorized to perform the marriage may waive the 72-hour delay upon application of the parties giving “serious and meritorious reasons”. The officiant’s “certificate” authorizing the immediate performance of the ceremony must be attached to the marriage license in accordance with Louisiana R.S. 9:242 (A).

In Orleans Parish, an officiant may waive the 72-hour period for NON-RESIDENT parties upon application of the parties giving “serious and meritorious reasons” as specified in Louisiana R.S. 9:242 (B). *(Note that a “non-resident” is a person domiciled or residing in a jurisdiction other than the State of Louisiana).*

The Vital Records Registrar suggests that you use the following format, on your letterhead, for the non-resident, 72 hour waiver. **This is sample text only to be recreated on your letterhead—do not submit this page.**

To: Louisiana Vital Records Registrar

Re: Louisiana Marriage License # _____

Application has been made this _____ day of _____, 20____.

by _____ and _____,

who are non-residents of Louisiana, to waive the R.S. 9:241 et. seq. delays.

I find that serious and meritorious reasons exist/existed for the immediate performance of the marriage between the above-mentioned parties and, therefore, I have waived the 72 hour requirement and I have performed the ceremony.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20____ in Orleans Parish.

(Signature of Marriage Officiant)