

wedding, license

the legal papers that appoints him the guardian."

To apply for a license in the Oakland County Court House, one person must live in the county, or they can apply in the other person's county of residence. If both live in Oakland County, then that's where they must apply.

"However, they can get married anywhere in Michigan," said Mrs. Burch. "But they must be married within 30 days after receiving the license. It expires in 30 days. And they must bring in the medical certificates for marriage license within 30 days also since those have a 30 day expiration time."

Things become more difficult if the bridegroom is under 18. Then matters are handled in the Oakland County Probate Court, and the marriage license is not a matter of public record.

"The license is issued by a probate judge but this is entirely discretionary," said Victor Coen, attorney to and supervisory probate registrar. "Getting married is not an absolute right if the boy is under 18 and the girl is younger than 16."

If one or both parties are not 18, there are certain procedures they must go through in Probate Court. After they fill out a form, a court attorney interviews the couple and their parents after reviewing birth certificates, blood

test results, and a letter on doctor's stationery stating the girl is pregnant if she's not 16 years old.

"If either set of parents is divorced, the noncustodial parent has to be present for the interview if he lives in Oakland County. If he's not a resident, he's notified by certified mail that he has to send in a letter of consent signed by a notary public," said Coen. "The parent's divorce papers must also be submitted, along with a letter of employment

stating length of employment and salary if the boy is working. The couple also has to note who will perform the marriage since Probate Court judges won't."

For more information about procedures for getting a marriage license, call the Oakland County Clerk's Office, vital statistics department at 858-0571. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oakland County Probate Court number is 858-0265.

—SUSAN KLEIN



Naomi Burch, a clerk at the Oakland County Clerk's office, said many couples don't bring all the information they need to get a marriage license.

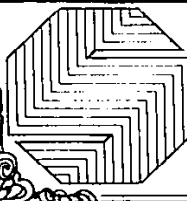
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