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Before you have a you've got to get a

Getting married is still a popular thing to do, according to Oakland County Clerk's Office statistics. In 1977, 9,338 couples got married compared to 8,769 in 1976 and 8,473 in 1975.

Perhaps part of marriage's popularity can be attributed to

the ease with which one can get a marriage license in Oakland County—as long as the man is 18 or older and the woman is at least 16.

"Only one person has to apply for the marriage certificate," said Naomi Burch, department clerk at

the Oakland County Clerk's Office at 1200 N Telegraph in the county court house. "That person has to bring in medical certificates from a licensed physician that shows the couple has had a blood test and is free from syphilis, gonorrhea and chancroid."

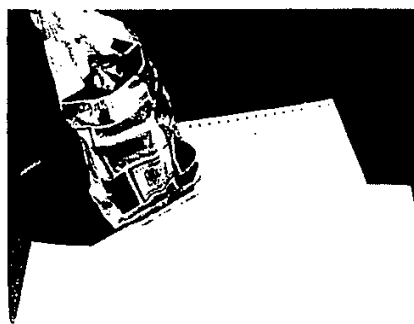
If one of the party is under 22, the clerk must have proof of age, a birth certificate or driver's license.

If everything is in order, then the applicant pays \$5, the same price it's been for 10 years, fills out the application for a license, signs an affidavit, stating that all the information given is correct, and comes back in three days to pick up the marriage license and the traditional gift pack.

Frequently, people applying for a license forget to bring all the right information, said Mrs. Burch. The person applying must know their mate's address, place and date of birth, occupation, number of times previously married, father's given and mother's maiden name, and, if the woman getting married is a widow, her maiden name.

There is more detail involved if the woman is under 18.

"Then one of the girl's parents has to come in and sign a consent form," said Mrs. Burch. "If the girl has a legal guardian, he or she has to come in and bring



Once you have everything you need to get married, Oakland County provides you with a special gift. (Staff photos by Douglas Bauman)

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