

PROCEDURES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF CLERGY WITHOUT ENDORSER

The following documentation has been found by many judges of this court to be sufficient evidence of affiliation with a religious society to support the granting of an authorization to perform marriage ceremonies in the District of Columbia. All documentation must be either certified or notarized before submitting with application.

All of the below requirements must be submitted in every case.

1. A **certificate** from the headquarters or chief official of the religious body showing that the applicant is currently recognized as a fellow minister, who is authorized by that religious society to perform marriages.
2. The accompanying **copy** of the Charter, By-laws, or Founding Document, if any, of the religious society with a copy of the applicant's record of ordination in the society.
3. An **affidavit** of the applicant which details how long he/she has been in the ministry, when and where he/she conducts religious meeting, the size of his/her congregation, what portion of his/her time is spent in religious stewardship, what material or monetary compensation he/she receives for his/her ministry and in what other business, if any, is he/she engaged.
4. The accompanying **notarized affidavit** of a reputable citizen of the District of Columbia declaring that the applicant is known to the citizen as a religious minister and is furthermore a person of good moral character.

If any of the above documentation can not be produced, it would be helpful to the Court's determination to produce a written explanation of the omission.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please call the Marriage Bureau (202) 879- 4865