



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Registry of Vital Records and Statistics
150 Mount Vernon Street, 1st Floor
Dorchester, MA 02125-3105

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

RONALD PRESTON
SECRETARY

CHRISTINE C. FERGUSON
COMMISSIONER

November 15, 2004

TO: City and Town Clerks and the Boston Registrar

FROM: Stanley E. Nyberg, Ph.D
Registrar of Vital Records and Statistics

SUBJECT: Chapter 388 of the Acts of 2004

MEMORANDUM

On October 29, 2004, the Governor signed into law Chapter 388 of the Acts of 2004, formerly known as House Bill 75. This law repeals section 28A of c.207 M.G.L, eliminating the premarital medical certificate requirement for marriage in Massachusetts. Therefore, effective January 28, 2005 (90 days after signing) medical certificates will no longer be a requirement for issuance of a marriage license.

The Registry of Vital Records and Statistics interprets this Act as follows:

- Medical certificates are still required for any Massachusetts marriages licenses issued before January 28, 2005, whether or not the marriage occurs before or after January 28, 2005.
- A couple that will marry after January 28, 2005 but files a Notice of Intention to Marry prior to January 28, 2005 does not need to file a medical certificate provided that the marriage license is not issued until January 28, 2005 or later.
- All couples that file Notices of Intention on or after January 28, 2005 no longer need to obtain a medical certificate.

Because the necessary changes to the Certificate of Marriage form are minimal, RVRS has no immediate plans to reprint or redistribute new forms until the next print order is placed. Therefore, you will receive new forms only upon order and availability. Please continue to use the existing Certificates of Marriage, and for those marriages where a medical certificate was not necessary, simply leave the checkbox for medical certificate blank.

If you have any questions about c.388 of the Acts of 2004, or other marriage-related questions, please call Pauline McNulty, Director of Registration, at (617) 740-2622 or Robert McMahan, Marriage Registration Specialist, at (617) 740-2643.