



TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF ROCHESTER

TOWN CLERK

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Naida L. Parker

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2003

OFFICE OF STATE AUDITOR
DIVISION OF LOCAL MANDATES

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OFFICE OF STATE AUDITOR
DIVISION OF LOCAL MANDATES

July 14, 2003

Tom Collins
Office of the State Auditor
Division of Local Mandates
10 West Street, Suite 6
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Mr. Collins:

The House and Senate have recently overridden Section 504 of the State Budget, which includes a change to Section 34 of Chapter 262. The effect of this change is to increase the fee for a marriage intention from \$4.00 to \$50.00. The Clerk would then be responsible for transmitting \$46.00 of that fee to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, General Fund.

The Town of Rochester issued approximately 25 marriage intentions last year. Since the salary for this position is considered part time, \$17,500 per year, the \$4.00 fee is the Clerk's for doing the work. The State is now requiring me, as part of the issuance of this license, to act as their agent, collect fees, deposit it either with the Town Treasurer or the local bank, and remit these monies to the State. All of these additional responsibilities are uncompensated. And, if for any reason, a applicant's fee for the marriage intention is paid for by check, and that check is "bounced", if you will, it will now be my responsibility to chase down these funds. And who, if the person is not able to be located, will now be responsible for "making good" on this money?

I would appreciate Local Mandates reviewing this Statue. If a Town, the size of Rochester (4,800 pop.) is affected by this Mandate, I am sure larger communities will experience an even great burden.

Thank you.

Naida Parker, Town Clerk