

# TITLE 11

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS

- Chapter 106. Marriage  
107. Divorce, Annulment and Separation; Conciliation Services  
108. Husband and Wife Relationship; Property Rights  
109. Parent and Child Relationship; Filiation Proceedings; Adoption; Age of Majority  
110. Reciprocal Enforcement of Support

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### Chapter 106

#### 1965 REPLACEMENT PART

#### Marriage

- |         |  |         |   |
|---------|--|---------|---|
| 106.010 | Marriage as civil contract; age of parties                                 | 106.100 | Retention of license by person solemnizing marriage; clerk's memorandum     |
| 106.020 | Prohibited and void marriages  | 106.110 | Unlawful issue of marriage license prohibited                               |
| 106.030 | Voidable marriages   | 106.120 | Who may solemnize marriage; recording of authority                          |
| 106.041 | Necessity for marriage license; application                                | 106.130 | Marriage by person acting in capacity of person authorized                  |
| 106.043 | County clerk to furnish forms to applicant                                 | 106.140 | Solemnizing marriage unlawfully or without authority                        |
| 106.050 | Affidavit prerequisite to the issuance of a marriage license               | 106.150 | Form of solemnization; witnesses; solemnization before congregation         |
| 106.060 | Consent of judge and parent or guardian if party under age                 | 106.160 | Marriage certificate  |
| 106.071 | Mental and physical prerequisites to marriage license                      | 106.170 | Report of marriage to county clerk  |
| 106.074 | Appeal from denial of medical certificate                                  | 106.180 | Filing and recording report   |
| 106.077 | Issuance of marriage license by county clerk; waiting period               | 106.190 | Legitimacy of issue of certain imperfect marriages                          |
| 106.079 | False statements in records required by ORS 106.041 and 106.071 prohibited | 106.210 | Certain marriages validated; children of such marriages declared legitimate |
| 106.080 | Fees and charges of physicians   | 106.990 | Penalties   |
| 106.090 | Certificates to indigents  |         |   |

#### CROSS REFERENCES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Conciliation services, 107.510 to 107.610                      | Presumption of lawful marriage, 41.360(30), 109.070   |
| Divorce, annulment, separate maintenance, Ch. 107              | Wife and children of common-law marriage entitled to workmen's compensation benefits, 656.226 |
| Divorce decree, effect, 107.110                                |   |
| Marriage counseling by community mental health clinic, 430.630 | 106.010   |
| Marriage revokes prior will, 114.130                           | Certain agreements upon consideration of marriage to be in writing, 41.580(4), 108.140        |
| Paternity, establishing, 109.070                               | Guardian discharged by marriage of ward, 126.520  |

**106.020**

Determination of validity of marriages, Ch. 107  
Temporary restriction upon remarriage after divorce, 107.110

**106.060**

Consent to marriage of child within jurisdiction of juvenile court, 419.521  
Marriage of ward as discharge of guardian, 126.520

**106.077**

Fees relating to marriage records, 205.320

**106.180**

County clerk to report marriages to State Board of Health, 432.405

**106.190**

Certain children declared legitimate, 107.150(5)  
Children of void marriages legitimate, 109.070

**106.210**

Repeal of section 23-1010, O.C.L.A., and amendment of section 63-102, O.C.L.A., 1951 c.455 §2  
Validity of certain marriages, Ch. 107

**106.010 Marriage as civil contract; age of parties.** Marriage is a civil contract entered into in person by males at least 18 years of age and females at least 15 years of age, who are otherwise capable, and solemnized in accordance with ORS 106.150. [Amended by 1965 c.422 §1]

**106.020 Prohibited and void marriages.** The following marriages are prohibited; and, if solemnized within this state, are absolutely void:

(1) When either party thereto had a wife or husband living at the time of such marriage.

(2) When the parties thereto are first cousins or any nearer of kin to each other, whether of the whole or half blood, computing by the rules of the civil law.

**106.030 Voidable marriages.** When either party to a marriage is incapable of making such contract or consenting thereto for want of legal age or sufficient understanding, or when the consent of either party is obtained by force or fraud, such marriage shall be void from the time it is so declared by decree of a court having jurisdiction thereof.

**106.040** [Repealed by 1953 c.143 §9]

**106.041 Necessity for marriage license; application.** (1) All persons wishing to enter into a marriage contract shall obtain a license therefor from the county clerk upon application, directed to any person or religious organization or congregation authorized by ORS 106.120 to solemnize marriages, and authorizing such person, organization or congregation to join together as husband and wife the persons named in the license.

(2) No license shall be issued by the county clerk until the provisions of this section, ORS 106.050, 106.060 and 106.071 are complied with.

(3) Each applicant for marriage license shall file with the county clerk from whom the license is sought a written application for the license on forms provided for this purpose by the State Board of Health which shall set forth certain statistical data regarding age, place of birth, sex, race, occupation, residence and previous marital status of the applicant and, if required, the name and address of the affiant under ORS 106.050. [1953 c.143 §2]

**106.043 County clerk to furnish forms to applicant.** Upon request of the applicants,

the county clerk shall provide each applicant with forms entitled "Confidential Record of Premarital Examination" and "Medical Certificate for Marriage License" as provided in ORS 106.071, and prepared by the State Board of Eugenics. [1953 c.143 §2]

**106.050 Affidavit prerequisite to the issuance of a marriage license.** The applicant for a marriage license must file with the county clerk an affidavit of some person other than either of the parties seeking the license showing the facts specified in ORS 106.060 or any of them that may be necessary to be shown in the particular case. However, neither the consent of the judge nor the consent of the parent or guardian required by ORS 106.060 shall be part of the affidavit. The affidavit is sufficient authority to the clerk, so far as the facts stated therein, for issuing the license. [Amended by 1965 c.467 §1]

**106.060 Consent of judge and parent or guardian if party under age.** (1) A marriage license shall not issue without the written consent of:

(a) The judge of the court having jurisdiction under ORS chapter 419 for the county if the female is less than 17 years of age or the male is less than 19 years of age, which judge, before exercising the discretion herein granted, may cause an investigation and report to be made in the manner provided in ORS 107.430 and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the court may assume that the parent or guardian has acted in the best interest of the child in making the request; and

(b) The parent or guardian, if any, of the female if she is less than 18 years of age or of the male if he is less than 21 years of age.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a marriage license shall not issue in any case unless the parties are each of an age capable of contracting marriage.

(3) If either party has no parent or guardian resident within this state and the female has resided within the county in which application is made for the six months immediately preceding the application, the license may issue, if otherwise proper, without the consent of the nonresident parent or guardian but not without the written consent of the judge of the court having jurisdiction

under ORS chapter 419 for the county in the case described in paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section.

[Amended by 1965 c.467 §2]

106.070 [Repealed by 1953 c.143 §9]

**106.071 Mental and physical prerequisites to marriage license.** (1) Before any county clerk issues a marriage license, each applicant therefor shall file with the clerk a medical certificate for marriage license signed by a physician licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners, except that for an applicant on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States, the certificate may be signed by a commissioned medical officer of the Armed Forces or Public Health Service of the United States. In the certificate the physician shall certify that:

(a) The applicant was given an examination and laboratory test on dates specified in the certificate.

(b) In the opinion of the physician, the applicant is not infected with syphilis in a communicable stage and is free from other communicable venereal diseases, feeble-mindedness, mental illness, drug addiction or chronic alcoholism.

(2) Before issuing a medical certificate for marriage license, the physician shall apply or, in a laboratory approved by the State Board of Health, have applied a recognized blood test approved by the State Board of Health for the determination of syphilis. The physician shall also, when considered necessary by him:

(a) Examine or have examined microscopically smears from the mucous membranes of the applicant in determining the possible presence of gonorrheal infection.

(b) Perform or have performed a dark-field test for syphilis.

(3) The confidential record of premarital examination shall consist of the following:

(a) The applicant's sworn statement of medical history.

(b) The laboratory report which shall be certified by the laboratory, indicating the dates and results of the laboratory tests.

(c) The physician's report of mental and physical examination; and

(d) When required, the countersignature of the health officer or State Board of Eugenics. The confidential record of premarital examination shall be filed by the examining physician with the State Board of Eugenics within three days after completion and shall not be open to public inspection.

(4) In case the blood test for syphilis is certified as positive or doubtful, but, in the opinion of the physician, the applicant does not have syphilis in a communicable stage by reason of other clinical findings or previous adequate treatment, the physician may secure the approval of the state or local health officer by countersignature on the confidential record of premarital examination. Thereupon, the physician may issue the medical certificate for marriage license as provided in subsection (1) of this section.

(5) In case the physician finds evidence of communicable venereal disease he shall refuse to issue the medical certificate for marriage license, except in those instances where he or another physician licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners certifies that the reason for refusal has been removed through adequate treatment. If the physician finds no cause for denial or delay, he shall issue the medical certificate for marriage license.

(6) If, at the time of the examination, the physician decides that the applicant is ineligible for a medical certificate for marriage license because of any present communicable venereal disease, feeble-mindedness, mental illness, drug addiction or chronic alcoholism, he shall delay issuance of the certificate and shall refer all pertinent information to a committee of three appointed by the State Board of Eugenics together with any other or additional evidence the applicant may wish to submit. If, in the opinion of this committee, the applicant should not marry, its decision is final, unless appealed, as provided in ORS 106.074 to the circuit court.

[1953 c.143 §4; 1959 c.377 §1]

**106.074 Appeal from denial of medical certificate.** (1) When the applicant has been refused a medical certificate for marriage license because some part of the confidential medical record of premarital examination is unsatisfactory, he may appeal, within 90 days from the date of refusal, to the circuit court of the county in which the medical certificate was denied. The circuit court shall try such appeals summarily, without a jury, upon the evidence contained in the confidential record of premarital examination and any other pertinent evidence presented.

(2) The court may either uphold the decision of the examining physician or the committee of the State Board of Eugenics

or direct those persons to issue the medical certificate for marriage license or may remand the case for such further examination as the court determines.  
[1953 c.143 §4]

**106.075** [Repealed by 1953 c.143 §9]

**106.077 Issuance of marriage license by county clerk; waiting period.** (1) When the county clerk has received the written application and the medical certificate for marriage license from both applicants, and all other legal requirements for issuance of the marriage license have been complied with, he shall issue a marriage license valid for a period of not more than 30 days after the earliest date of either applicant's medical certificate for marriage license showing when the blood test for syphilis on, or premarital examination of, either applicant was made.

(2) The county clerk shall not issue a marriage license until after a period of seven days has elapsed since the date of the application unless a judge of probate of the county, for good and sufficient cause shown and in his discretion, by an order in writing signed by him, authorizes the county clerk to issue the license before the expiration of such seven-day period.

[1953 c.143 §4; 1957 c.592 §1; 1963 c.429 §1]

**106.079 False statements in records required by ORS 106.041 and 106.071 prohibited.** No applicant, laboratory director or physician shall intentionally make any material false statement in connection with the records or certificates required by ORS 106.041 and 106.071.

[1953 c.143 §4]

**106.080 Fees and charges of physicians.** All fees and charges of any physician making a premarital examination and issuing a medical certificate for marriage license as provided in ORS 106.071 shall not exceed \$7.50 for each person examined.

[Amended by 1953 c.143 §9]

**106.090 Certificates to indigents.** The county physicians of the several counties shall, upon request, make the necessary examination and issue the certificate which may properly be issued under ORS 106.071, without charge to an indigent applicant.

**106.100 Retention of license by person solemnizing marriage; clerk's memorandum.** The person solemnizing the marriage may retain the marriage license in his possession.

The clerk who issues the license, before delivering it, shall enter in the marriage book a memorandum of the names of the parties, the consent of the parent or guardian, if any, the name of the affiant, the substance of the affidavit upon which the license is issued and the date of the license.

**106.110 Unlawful issue of marriage license prohibited.** No county clerk shall issue a license contrary to the provisions of ORS 106.041 to 106.077 or 106.100.

**106.120 Who may solemnize marriage; recording of authority.** (1) Marriages may be solemnized by any judicial officer of the state anywhere within his jurisdiction, or by congregations or organizations as indicated in subsection (2) of ORS 106.150, or by any minister of any church organized, carrying on its work and having congregations in this state, who is authorized by such church to solemnize marriages, and who has filed for record with the county clerk of the county in which he resides or in which the marriage is solemnized, evidence satisfactory to the county clerk that he has been so authorized. In the case of a nonresident minister, such filing shall be in any county in which he performs any marriage ceremony, but no minister shall be required to file such evidence of authority in more than one county.

(2) The evidence of authority, if approved by the county clerk, shall be recorded by him in a book called "Authority to Solemnize Marriages," for which he shall charge 10 cents per folio for recording and indexing; but no charge shall be less than 25 cents. Whenever any minister who has filed such evidence of authority with one county clerk solemnizes any marriage in any other county, he shall attach to or indorse upon the certificate required by ORS 106.170, a statement over his signature showing his place of residence and the county clerk with whom his evidence of authority to solemnize marriages is recorded.

**106.130 Marriage by person acting in capacity of person authorized.** A marriage solemnized before any person professing to be a judicial officer of this state or a minister of any church or congregation therein is not void, nor shall the validity thereof be in any way affected, on account of any want of power or authority in such person, if such person was acting at the time in the office or the capacity of a person authorized to

solemnize marriage and if such marriage is consummated with the belief on the part of the persons so married, or either of them, that they have been lawfully joined in marriage.

**106.140 Solemnizing marriage unlawfully or without authority.** No person shall undertake to join others in marriage knowing that he is not lawfully authorized so to do. No person authorized to solemnize marriage shall join persons in marriage contrary to any of the provisions of ORS 106.010 to 106.060 or 106.100 to 106.190.

**106.150 Form of solemnization; witnesses; solemnization before congregation.** (1) In the solemnization of a marriage no particular form is required except that the parties thereto shall assent or declare in the presence of the minister or judicial officer solemnizing the marriage and in the presence of at least two witnesses, that they take each other to be husband and wife.

(2) All marriages, to which there are no legal impediments, solemnized before or in any religious organization or congregation according to the established ritual or form commonly practiced therein, are valid. In such case, a certificate containing the particulars specified in ORS 106.160 shall be made and filed for record by the person presiding or officiating in such religious organization or congregation, in like manner and with like effect as in ordinary cases.

**106.160 Marriage certificate.** The person solemnizing the marriage shall give to each of the parties to the marriage, if required, a marriage certificate specifying the names and residence of the parties and of at least two witnesses, the time and place of the marriage, the date of the license for the marriage and by whom it was issued.

**106.170 Report of marriage to county clerk.** A person solemnizing a marriage shall within one month thereafter make and deliver to the county clerk who issued the license for the marriage and to the county clerk of the county where the marriage took place a certificate containing the particulars specified in ORS 106.160. Such certificate may be in the following form:

State of Oregon }  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ } ss.

This is to certify that the undersigned [minister or judicial officer, as the case may

be], by authority of a license bearing date the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, and issued by the county clerk of the County of \_\_\_\_\_, did on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, at the house of \_\_\_\_\_, in the county and state aforesaid, join in lawful wedlock, A. B., of the County of \_\_\_\_\_, and State of \_\_\_\_\_, and C.D., of the County of \_\_\_\_\_, and State of \_\_\_\_\_, with their mutual assent, in the presence of E. F. and G. H., witnesses.

Witness my hand.

J. P.

[Judge, justice of the peace or minister, as the case may be.]

**106.180 Filing and recording report.** The county clerk shall file the certificate mentioned in ORS 106.170 and record it in the record of marriages. No fee shall be charged for such filing, recording or indexing.

**106.190 Legitimacy of issue of certain imperfect marriages.** (1) The issue of marriages void under ORS 106.020 are legitimate.

(2) All children conceived or born of parents who married or who may hereafter marry prior to the expiration of six months from the date of a decree of divorce or declaring a marriage void rendered in a suit to which one of the parents was a party or during the period of an appeal from such a decree, if the marriage is in all other respects regular, are legitimate.

106.200 [Repealed by 1957 c.411 §7]

**106.210 Certain marriages validated; children of such marriages declared legitimate.** Any marriage in all other respects legal and regular but heretofore void by reason of:

(1) Oregon Laws of 1866, section 1, page 10 (section 23-1010, O.C.L.A.) prohibiting marriage between a white person and one having Negro, Chinese, Kanaka or Indian blood, or

(2) Section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate marriages," approved October 17, 1862 (section 63-102, O.C.L.A.) prohibiting marriages between a white person and one having Negro or Mongolian blood, hereby is declared valid; and any child conceived or born of such marriage shall be deemed legitimate.

[1955 c.694 §1; 1959 c.531 §1]

106.220 to 106.980 [Reserved for expansion]

**106.990 Penalties.** (1) Violation of ORS 106.079 is punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of not more than \$100 or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 30 days, or both.

(2) Violation of ORS 106.110 or of ORS 106.140 is punishable upon conviction by imprisonment in the penitentiary or county jail for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than \$500 nor less than \$100.

(3) Any medical examiner who wilfully makes any false statement in any certificate issued as provided in ORS 106.071 shall be punished by the revocation of his license to practice his profession within the state.

(4) Refusal or neglect to comply with subsection (2) of ORS 106.120 or with ORS 106.170 shall result in the forfeiture of a penalty of not less than \$10 nor more than \$50 to be recovered by action for every five days of such refusal or neglect.

[Amended by 1953 c.143 §9; subsection (1) enacted as 1953 c.143 §5]

#### CERTIFICATE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Pursuant to ORS 173.170, I, Sam R. Haley, Legislative Counsel, do hereby certify that I have compared each section printed in this chapter with the original section in the enrolled bill, and that the sections in this chapter are correct copies of the enrolled sections, with the exception of the changes in form permitted by ORS 173.160 and other changes specifically authorized by law.  
Done at Salem, Oregon,  
on November 15, 1965.

Sam R. Haley  
Legislative Counsel

