



The COUNTY OF ADAMS
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Public Act 96-1513
CIVIL UNION LAW HIGHLIGHTS

Beginning June 1, 2011, Civil Union licenses will be issued by county clerks in Illinois.

They will be available to same-sex and heterosexual couples of at least 18 years of age.

The county clerk's office does not perform a ceremony. Licenses are available in the clerk's office, but the couple must wait until the following day to have their union certified by an officiant such as a judge or religious official.

The license will be valid for a ceremony held within 60 days of being issued. If the license is issued in Adams County, the ceremony must be held in Adams County.

The officiant must return the certified license to the county clerk's office as proof of the union within ten (10) days of their ceremony.

A Civil Union must be dissolved in court like divorce, rather than simply by notifying your local county clerk.

Benefits of a Civil Union*:

- Health insurance for partner;
- Partners automatically considered parents;
- Hospital visitation/health care decision rights;
- State benefits for partners of military veterans;
- Right to sue over partner's death.

Differences from marriage*:

- Not recognized in all states;
- Can't file joint federal tax returns;
- Can't receive social security payments upon partner's death;
- Can't get immigration benefits for partner.

*These are not comprehensive lists.