

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 POLICY COMMITTEE
4 RECOMMENDATION

5 FOR

6 HOUSE BILL NO. 2205

7 By: Lay

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9 POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

10 An Act relating to marriage; amending 43 O.S. 2021,
11 Section 7, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 241,
12 O.S.L. 2022 (43 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 7), which
13 relates to marriage ceremonies; modifying who may
14 perform formal ceremonies; and providing an effective
15 date.

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 43 O.S. 2021, Section 7, as
19 amended by Section 3, Chapter 241, O.S.L. 2022 (43 O.S. Supp. 2024,
20 Section 7), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 7. A. All marriages must be contracted by a formal
22 ceremony performed or solemnized in the presence of at least two
23 adult, competent persons as witnesses, by a judge or retired judge
24 of any court in this state, or an ordained or authorized preacher,

1 ~~or minister of the Gospel, priest,~~ deacon, elder of the Gospel,
2 priest, or other ecclesiastical dignitary of any denomination who
3 has been duly ordained or authorized by the church to which he or
4 she belongs to preach the Gospel, or a rabbi and who is at least
5 eighteen (18) years of age.

6 B. 1. The judge shall place his or her order of appointment on
7 file with the office of the court clerk of the county in which he or
8 she resides.

9 2. The preacher, minister, priest, deacon, elder, rabbi, or
10 ecclesiastical dignitary shall certify on the marriage certificate
11 that he or she holds credentials or authority from his or her church
12 or synagogue authorizing him or her to solemnize marriages.

13 C. No person herein authorized to perform or solemnize a
14 marriage ceremony shall do so unless he or she has good reason to
15 believe the persons presenting themselves before him or her for
16 marriage are the identical persons named in the license, and for
17 whose marriage the same was issued, and that there is no legal
18 objection or impediment to such marriage.

19 D. Marriages between persons belonging to the society called
20 Friends, or Quakers, the spiritual assembly of the Baha'is, or the
21 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which have no ordained
22 minister, may be solemnized by the persons and in the manner
23 prescribed by and practiced in any such society, church, or
24 assembly.

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SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

60-1-12797 TKR 02/20/25