



To: Local Vital Records Registrars
From: Jane Purtil, State VR Registrar
Re: 2017 Legislative Update
Date: August 14, 2017

During the most recent legislative session, there were a couple of changes to the vital records laws. Below is a summary of these changes.

Public Act 17-46, An Act Concerning the Appointment of Assistant Registrars of Vital Statistics

The current language of Connecticut General Statutes § 7-38 limits the number of assistant registrars that may be appointed by the vital records registrar. The law allows no more than 4 assistant registrars per town. Public Act 17-46 removes the cap, so following the effective date a town may appoint more than 4 assistant registrars.

(Effective October 1, 2017)

PA 17-54, An Act Concerning the Legal Age to Marry in this State

Current marriage laws allow minors who are 16 and 17 years old to marry with parental consent. For those younger than 16, consent to marry must be obtained by the Probate Court judge of the jurisdiction in which the minor resides.

Public Act 17-54 will require that for minors 16 and 17 years old, the Probate Court judge of the jurisdiction in which the minor resides must approve the issuance of a marriage license to the minor. For minors under 16 years of age, no marriage license may be issued.

The Department will revise the back of the marriage license form to accommodate this new legislative change. The Probate Court Judge will no longer sign the marriage license, but rather provide a separate document to the applicant that provides permission for the minor to marry. You will need to record the docket number on the back of the marriage license, and keep the court document on file. Do not append the court document to the record, as such practice can potentially damage the original record. Instead, keep the court document in a separate file.

(Effective October 1, 2017)

