

NOTICE TO OFFICIALS

TO: Ministers, Magistrates, Persons with authority to perform marriages and witnesses
 FROM: Matthew S. Willis, Register of Deeds
 RE: Compliance with G.S. 51-16 after issuance of marriage licenses

The Register of Deeds is responsible for issuing licenses for marriages to be performed within the State of North Carolina and for keeping the appropriate records.

- A. A marriage license purchased in North Carolina may be used in any county in North Carolina. Following the ceremony, the license must be returned to the county of purchase.
- B. The license is valid for 60 days and the marriage ceremony must be performed in that time frame.
- C. Both copies of the license must be completed by the person performing the ceremony and two witnesses. **The license must be returned to the county of purchase within 10 days of the ceremony.** Please see the example below on how to complete the license. Type or print legibly all required information and use black ink for signatures.

PREPARATION OF MARRIAGE		VENUE / JURISDICTION	
20a. CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE NAMED PERSONS WERE MARRIED ON		MONTH	DAY YEAR
		January	1 2020
21a. SIGNATURE OF OFFICIANT		21b. PLACE OF MARRIAGE - COUNTY	
OFFICIANT	<i>James A. Smith</i>	Harnett County	
21c. NAME OF OFFICIANT (PRINT/TYPE)		21d. TITLE	
James A. Smith		Officiant/Minister	
21e. ADDRESS OF OFFICIANT (PRINT/TYPE)		21f. ADDRESS	
123 Main St, Lillington, NC		123 Main St, Lillington, NC	
22a. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS		22b. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS	
WITNESSES	<i>John B. Doe</i>	<i>Jane C. Doe</i>	
22c. NAME OF WITNESS (PRINT/TYPE)		22d. NAME OF WITNESS (PRINT/TYPE)	
John B. Doe		Jane C. Doe	
22e. ADDRESS OF WITNESS		22f. ADDRESS OF WITNESS	
456 Pine St, Lillington, NC		456 Pine St, Lillington, NC	

DATE RETURNED TO REGISTER OF DEEDS _____ RECEIVED BY _____
 N.C. VITAL RECORDS (Revised 11/2018) REGISTER OF DEEDS COPY

- 21a. Month, day and year marriage ceremony was performed
- 21b. County where the marriage ceremony was performed.
- 21c. Signature of officiant who performed the ceremony.
- 21d. Typed or clearly printed title of officiant.
- 21e. Typed or clearly printed name of officiant.
- 21f. Typed or clearly printed address of officiant.
- 22a. Signature of witness #1.
- 22b. Typed or clearly printed name of witness #1.
- 22c. Typed or clearly printed address of witness #1.
- 23a. Signature of witness #2.
- 23b. Typed or clearly printed name of witness #2.
- 23c. Typed or clearly printed address of witness #2.

D. Both copies of the completed license are to be returned to:

Harnett County Register Of Deeds
 305 W. Cornelius Harnett Blvd, Suite 200
 Lillington, NC 27546

If you have any questions please contact the Harnett County Register of Deeds Office at 910-893-7540.