

# **New Marriage Equality Bill**

## **(Civil Marriage)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. When can a civil marriage license be issued to a same-sex couple?  
A. A license may be issued up to 60 days prior to September 1, 2009. But the marriage can not occur until September 1, 2009, or thereafter.
  
2. Can civil union licenses be issued and certified from now to August 31, 2009?  
A. Yes, civil union licenses should continue to be issued by the town clerks through August 31, 2009. A civil union certification performed and filed prior to September 1, 2009, would be valid and has continued recognition as a civil union.
  
3. If you have been issued a civil union license by a town clerk but the certification would not occur until after September 1, 2009, can the civil union be certified?  
A. No. No civil union certification will be valid if performed on or after September 1, 2009.
  
4. After September 1, 2009, how would Vermont treat a civil union entered into in another state that has continued certification of civil unions?  
A. Vermont would recognize the certification as a civil union.
  
5. If one has a civil union from another state, can one come to Vermont and get married?  
A. Two parties to a civil union from Vermont, or another state, can now also be joined in subsequent civil marriage; they do not need to dissolve the earlier civil union in order to marry. The key is that the parties to the civil union and the marriage must be the same. A party to an existing civil union who wishes to now marry a different party must first obtain a dissolution of the civil union.
  
6. If a same sex couple has both a civil union and a marriage (same parties and so both valid) and are now seeking a divorce, could both unions be dissolved in one proceeding?  
A. We expect that both unions could be dissolved in one proceeding.