**How to Get Married (and divorced ☹) In British Columbia**

**Are you eligible to marry in BC?**

* You do not have to be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ resident to be married in the province.
* You are required to get a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, require by the Marriage Act.
* The license is valid for a term of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ months and only in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Applying for a Marriage License**

* Only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ member of the couple needs to apply in person for a marriage license.
* ![C:\Users\alazar\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\BL23O2EB\MP900423085[1].jpg]()The current fee for a Marriage License is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and must be paid at the time of application.
* The marriage license is
	+ issued \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of application
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ valid for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ may not be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Documentation**

* Applicants must provide identification for both parties in the form of:
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ card which confirms 1) full legal names 2) birth date 3) place of birth
* Without the above primary identification, the following documents can be substituted (in order of preference):
	+ **![C:\Users\alazar\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\7WMAV4M3\MP900409069[1].jpg]()**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ You will also be asked to provide information on:
		- current \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
		- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Restrictions**

* Anyone over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years of age is eligible to apply for a marriage license in BC.
* Anyone under 19 years of age must first obtain the consent of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	+ No one under \_\_\_\_\_ years can be married without the consent of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* If one or both individuals were recently \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ proof must be provided.
	+ No license can be issued until the courts \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a divorce, normally \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the divorce is issued by the Courts.

**Arranging the Marriage Ceremony**

* In British Columbia, couples can choose to have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ceremony, both of which must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by two people.
* A religious ceremony requires a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the Vital Statistics Agency, under the *Marriage Act*.
* In BC, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is performed by a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who must also be registered with Vital Statistics.

**Registering the Marriage**

* The marriage commissioner or religious representative who will perform the wedding ceremony will help complete the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Within \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the wedding ceremony, the form will be sent to the Vital Statistics Agency, where the marriage will be registered and a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be kept.

**Proof of Marriage**

* At the time of the ceremony, your marriage commissioner or religious representative may provide a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which can be used temporarily as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of marriage. However, it is not a legal document.
* You will receive a legal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_from the Vital Statistics Agency after the registration of the marriage.

**CHANGING YOUR NAME**

* After marriage, you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to use your spouse's surname or you can continue to use your own surname.
* Changing to your spouse’s surname does not require a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (example: the name on your birth certificate would remain the same) or any \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to your identification records (you must submit a copy of your Marriage Certificate to have your current documents changed)
* If you choose to use a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a legal change of name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**DIVORCE**

**THE DIVORCE ACT**

Under the Divorce Act*,* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the only admissible ground for divorce.

By law, a marriage has broken down if:

* you and your spouse have lived apart for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and have decided your marriage has ended
* your spouse has committed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(sexual intercourse with someone other than you); or
* your spouse has been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and/or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cruel to you

If your situation qualifies as marriage breakdown, and either you or your spouse has resided in British Columbia for the past \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you may apply for a divorce in this province.

**TWO TYPES OF DIVORCE**

**Joint Action** (Both parties \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

* If you and your spouse agree to divorce, you may file for a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* To file, both spouses must be in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on all details including \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and both spouses must sign a Writ of Summons and Statement of Claim.

**Sole Action** (Only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is requesting the divorce)

* **Undefended Sole Action Divorce**
* An undefended divorce is where one spouse is asking the other spouse for a divorce and the defendant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_any of the details of the divorce, such as custody, access, or support.
* **Defended Sole Action Divorce**
* A defended divorce is where one spouse is asking the other spouse for a divorce and the defendant has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ either the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the divorce or the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**DO IT YOURSELF DIVORCE**

* The Divorce Act makes it possible for many married couples in Canada to handle divorce proceedings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, without hiring lawyers to act on their behalf.
* If you are doing your own divorce and your spouse \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the details, you should consider seeking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PROCESSING TIME**

* Processing time of a divorce application depends on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the case as well as when clearance is received from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Ottawa.
* Processing can take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from start to finish, but may take longer.
* If the judge determines that parties are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to a divorce, she or he will grant a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The divorce is automatically finalized \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days after the divorce order is granted if no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is filed.



**LEGALITY**

* By law, without the existence of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ agreement, all asset and debt growth within the relationship are considered to belong to both parties.
* This includes:
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ and more

**COMMON LAW**

* The term COMMON LAW recognized unions created by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not by a civil or religious ceremony or official \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* To be considered common law, you have to prove you have been living with your partner for at least \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a relationship like a marriage.
* Although a couple is considered to be common law after only 12 months of living together, most laws relating to division of assets and/or debts do not apply until having lived common law for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The existence of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_causes an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the two year rule.