

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

- **HISTORY** declaration of marriage was more commonly used when a minister or judge was unavailable. If the bride and groom didn't want to wait for a preacher, they would go to their local county seat and file a paper with the clerk of the district court, declaring themselves married. this process of filing a declaration of marriage is still used today.
- **IS IT LEGAL?** Once a declaration of marriage is filed with the clerk of the district court, the couple are recognized as being legally married.
- **HOW TO APPLY** The application process is the same as the application for marriage license.
- **COST?** \$53.00 the same as a marriage license.

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

YOU must prepare your own declaration. It may be typed or handwritten. Your declaration of marriage must be one-sided, on 8 1/2 x 11 paper and must include the following information for both the bride and groom:

- ♥ FULL NAMES
- ♥ CURRENT AGE
- ♥ CITY AND STATE OF RESIDENCE
- ♥ FATHER'S FIRST, MIDDLE, AND LAST NAME & CITY & STATE OF RESIDENCE
- ♥ MOTHER'S FIRST, MIDDLE, AND MAIDEN NAME & CITY & STATE OF RESIDENCE

OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED ON YOUR DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

- ♥ The date you are declaring your marriage
- ♥ A statement that both parties are legally competent to enter into the marriage contract
- ♥ Signature lines for the bride, groom and two witnesses (not to be signed until instructed by the clerk). You may bring your own witnesses, or clerk of court personnel may act as witnesses.
- ♥ Leave a 2 in. x 2 in. blank space near the bottom left corner of your declaration for the court seal.
- ♥ Two spaces are needed for official use. One space is for the notary, and the other space is for the clerk to file your declaration. Use the following as examples:

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
FILED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2014
KRISTIE LEE BOELTER, CLERK

BY _____
DEPUTY

**Please see the Declaration of Marriage Example Form*