

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LABORATORY SERVICES BUREAU



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To: Clerks of District Courts

From: Denise Higgins, Serology Supervisor  
Montana Public Health Laboratory

Date: September 28, 2007

**RE: Revisions to Premarital Certificate Effective October 1, 2007**

A new law was passed by the 2007 Legislature enacting changes in the requirements for a marriage license, effective October 1, 2007. The change involves the medical certificate, which currently requires a physician's signature that the female applicant has either had a test for rubella immunity, or is exempt on medical grounds. The new law allows marriage license applicants to waive the requirement for a medical certificate, if both applicants read and sign an informed consent statement. The applicants must sign to acknowledge that they received the information provided regarding the risks associated with declining the rubella immunity test.

Accordingly, the Montana Premarital Testing form now includes a "Waiver of the Medical Certificate Requirement" section. The front of the form is the Medical Certificate, and the reverse side of the form is the Informed Consent and Waiver. If the applicants choose to decline a blood test for rubella immunity (with informed consent regarding the need to know a woman's rubella immunity status), they need only to read the information, check the waiver request box, and sign the back of the form. A physician's signature is not required if the waiver is chosen.

The Premarital Testing form is now available electronically on the DPHHS website at:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/Lab/Environmental/pdf/premaritalcertfillable.pdf>

You may print copies of the form from the website, or you may enter the information electronically and then print the completed form. You may also continue to order copies of the form from the Montana Public Health Laboratory at 1-800-821-7284.

Questions regarding the new form may be directed either to me at the Montana Public Health Laboratory (406-444-3040) or to the DPHHS Immunization Program at 406-444-5580.