



## **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Public Records Division - Commissions Section

TO ALL NON-RESIDENT, OUT-OF-STATE CLERGY  
MEMBERS WISHING TO SOLEMNIZE A MARRIAGE:

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 207, Section 39 states in part that,

The state secretary may authorize, subject to such conditions as he may determine, the solemnization of any specified marriage anywhere in the Commonwealth by the following nonresident clergy members: a minister of the gospel, a commissioned cantor or duly ordained rabbi, authorized representative of a Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is, the Imam of the Orthodox Islamic religion, a duly ordained priest or minister of the Buddhist Religion, a minister in fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association, a leader of an Ethical Cultural Union, a justice of the court or a justice of the peace, ... in a regular and special meeting ... of a Friends or Quaker monthly meeting ....

A nonresident clergy member may also solemnize a marriage according to the usage of any church or religious organization which shall have complied with the provisions of the second paragraph of section 38. (C. § 38 ... Churches and other religious organizations shall file in the office of the state secretary information relating to persons recognized or licensed as aforesaid, and relating to usages of such organizations, in such form and at such times as the secretary may require.) A certificate of such authorization shall be issued by the state secretary and shall be attached to the certificate issued under section twenty-eight and filed with the appropriate city or town clerk.

Please complete the application and return it to this office promptly. The application may be mailed or sent by facsimile transmission to (617) 727-5914. Upon receipt of a completed application, a Certificate of Solemnization will be mailed to the Non-Resident Clergy member shown on the application. The Clergy member is responsible for filing said Certificate with the appropriate town or city clerk pursuant to G.L. ch. 207.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE THE APPLICATION FORM, ILLEGIBLE FORMS MAY DELAY  
THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE.

Very truly yours,  
DIVISION OF PUBLIC RECORDS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Francis Galvin".

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
Secretary of the Commonwealth



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## *Out of State Non-Resident Clergy - Petition to Solemnize Marriage*

**TO: HIS HONOR, THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

*Pursuant to and in compliance with G.L. Chapter 207, §39, I hereby petition for authorization to solemnize a marriage within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a:*

**PLEASE CHECK ONE**

- ☐ Non-resident minister of the Gospel. (**including Catholic Priests**)
- ☐ Authorized representative of a Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is
- ☐ A commissioned cantor or duly ordained rabbi of the Jewish Faith.
- ☐ Imam of the Orthodox Islamic religion.
- ☐ Duly ordained priest or minister of the Buddhist religion.
- ☐ Leader of an Ethical Culture Society which is recognized by the American Ethical Union and who is duly appointed and in good and regular standing with the American Ethical Union.
- ☐ Minister in fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association and ordained by a local church.
- ☐ A justice of a court or a Justice of the Peace authorized to solemnize a marriage by virtue of their office within their state of residence.
- ☐ In a regular or special meeting for worship conducted by or under the oversight of a Friends or Quaker Monthly Meeting in accordance with the usage of their Society.
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NEATLY*

**Solemnizer's full name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Out of state residence:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Street*

*City/Town*

*State/Zip*

*Day Phone*

*Evening Phone*

**Party A's full name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Residence:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Street*

*City/Town*

*State/Zip*

*Day Phone*

*Evening Phone*

**Party B's full name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Residence:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Street*

*City/Town*

*State/Zip*

*Day Phone*

*Evening Phone*

**Date of marriage:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location of marriage:** \_\_\_\_\_

*I certify that the above information is a true statement made in compliance with G.L. Chapter 207, §39, and under the penalties of perjury.*

***I understand that I am responsible to file the Solemnization Certificate (that I will receive as a result of this Petition) with the appropriate City or Town clerk where the marriage license has been issued within ten (10) days of the date of the ceremony under penalty of law.***

**Signature of Solemnizer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Send or fax completed application to:* William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Room 1719 - Commissions Section  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108  
(FAX) 617-727-5914

**Please allow 2 - 4 weeks for processing and return of solemnization certificate.**

**Please do not submit application more than six(6) weeks in advance.**