

**Website:** <http://www.thewillcountyclerk.com>

### **Press Release for Same Sex Marriages**

The Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act (750 ILCS 75/65) was signed into law by Governor Patrick Quinn on November 20, 2013. The law takes effect on June 1, 2014. The act does not repeal Illinois' existing civil union laws. Couples can continue to enter into civil unions in Illinois. Couples with civil unions may remain in a civil union.

Civil unions will not automatically convert into a marriage. Couples wishing to convert their existing civil union into a marriage can do so after the law takes effect. It's important to note the conversion must be done at the County Clerk's Office in the county where the civil union license was originally issued.

If a couple's civil union was issued in Will County, they must apply at either the Will County Clerk's Office 302 N. Chicago Street, Joliet, or at one of the following satellite locations:

Crete Township Office, 1367 Wood Street, Crete, IL 60417, 708/672-8279

DuPage Township Office, 241 Canterbury Lane, Bolingbrook, IL 60440, 630/759-1317

Plainfield Township Office, 22525 W. Lockport Road, Plainfield, IL 60544, 815/436-8308

Those who wish to convert their civil union to marriage will have two options:

1. Apply for a marriage license and have a marriage ceremony. There is no time frame for this free-of-charge conversion. The license is valid for 60 days with a one-day waiting period.
2. Apply for a marriage license and have it reflect the date the couple entered into the civil union. This free-of-charge conversion is effective for a period of 12 months effective June 1, 2014.

The Will County Clerk's Office will open Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. to issue marriage licenses.

For more information, contact the Will County Clerk's Office at 815-740-4626 or visit our website at [www.thewillcountyclerk.com](http://www.thewillcountyclerk.com).