

Will civil marriages replace civil unions?

Yes. Under the Act Related to Civil Marriage (S.115) recently enacted by the Vermont State Legislature, beginning on September 1, 2009, same-sex couples will have access to the civil marriage laws, but may no longer establish a civil union. Civil union licenses issued and certified before that date will continue to be recognized in Vermont. The act defines civil marriage as “the legally recognized union of two people” who are not related to one another, at least 18 years of age, and not already married to or in a civil union with different person. A couple in a civil union who wish now to be married do not need to dissolve the civil union in order to do so.

The Vermont Department of Health will prescribe new civil marriage license application forms. The cost will be \$45. More information is available at www.leg.state.vt.us/misc/s115faq.pdf.

Abby Friedman, Director
VLCT Municipal Assistance Center

VLCT News, June 2009