



FACTSHEET

Marriage License E-file System

PROJECT CONTACT

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Judicial Technology and Automation Committee (JTAC), Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and Indiana State Library have automated the process for issuing Marriage Licenses at local Circuit Court Clerks' offices. The goal is to collect all the information required just one time and store records electronically so information is easy to retrieve and transmit for state agencies as required by Indiana Code. The database is also searchable.

Every year, about 45,000 couples marry in Indiana and each must go to the clerk's office for a license. When the project began, the bride's and groom's names were each handwritten three times in a cumbersome, paper record book. That means names were written 270,000 times a year, equal to one name being written every other minute, every day of the year. That doesn't include the time it took to enter the records into ISDH or ISL databases.

HOW IT WORKS



The Marriage License E-file System is a web-based application available free of charge through JTAC's secure extranet, INCite (Indiana Court Information Technology Extranet). Clerks use the system to automate and expedite functions previously done by hand. As of summer 2009, 57 counties were using the system and had issued more than 20,700 marriage licenses, which accounts for more than half of all marriage licenses issued in Indiana.

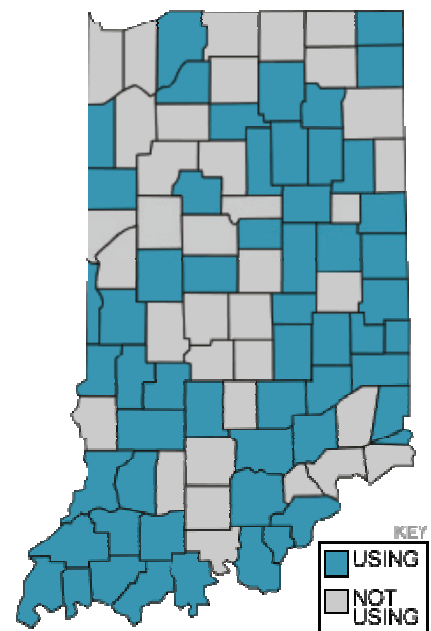
The electronic Marriage License Application captures the information entered by the Clerk, who then prints an application for the couple to sign, attesting to the accuracy of the personal information. A Marriage License form for the Officiant to sign upon solemnization is also created. The couple or the officiant simply returns the license after the ceremony, and the clerk electronically enters the officiant's information, date and location of the marriage.

BENEFITS OF THE SYSTEM

The new system gives clerks the ability to print a marriage license directly from the web-based system, eliminating the need to purchase costly paper record books. Clerks can also quickly search for marriage records statewide. When a marriage record is found, the county which originally produced the license may print certified copies without the need to search through stacks of record books.

The Marriage License E-File System ensures current and accurate information will be available to state agencies needing marriage data. JTAC provides system access to ISDH to allow retrieval of information as required by law (e.g., ISDH must have access to applicants' social security numbers). This eliminates the need for counties to forward paper forms to the ISDH, saving duplicate entry time, postage and mailing costs. It also eliminates the need for duplicate data entry by ISDH.

In the near future, Marriage License E-File will also offer up-to-date public information to citizens via the Internet. ISDH is adding its existing database of marriages since 1993 to the new system and it is anticipated the State Library will also provide its electronic marriage data. This will allow JTAC to create a single, searchable online database of public marriage data for research purposes.



THE E-FILE SYSTEM WILL:

- Eliminate duplicate data entry by the Clerk, the couple, and ISDH
- Increase accuracy of records
- Information available in a more timely manner
- Code requirements enforced by the application
- Easy access to all Indiana Marriage records for the public and the Clerk's office
- Increased benefits for the Clerks, ISDH, ISL, and the public