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## **Consumer Alert: Buyer Beware When Making Purchases From Marriage License Copy Resale Businesses**

It recently came to the attention of the St. Louis City Recorder of Deeds Office that several online companies offer to re-sell certified copies of marriage licenses issued by local public offices across the United States.

"We want the public to know that they get a much better deal from the public office that issues a marriage license than they do with a company that resells it," said Sharon Quigley Carpenter, St. Louis City Recorder of Deeds and Vital Records Registrar.

In the United States, marriage licenses are, in most cases, issued by a county or municipal offices and the issuing office sells certified copies when requested., including to resale companies.

"Public offices sell certified copies at a much lower price and much faster than record resale companies."

Cost for a Certified Copy of a Marriage Application or License from the St. Louis City Recorder of Deeds is \$12. Resale companies may charge up to \$48 for the same copy.

In St. Louis City, walk-in marriage record services generally take a few minutes and service by mail is usually sent out same day request is received. The turnaround time by a resale company may be up to 15 days.

If you have any questions about certified copies of St. Louis City issued marriage licenses dated 1932 to Present, please call the [Marriage License Department](#) at 314.622.3257.

If you have any questions about St. Louis City marriage records dated 1765-1931, please call the [Archives](#) at 314-589-6796.

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