

**ISSUANCE OF MARRIAGE LICENSE WITHOUT PUBLICITY (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 180 of 1897**

**551.203 Private file of papers and duplicates thereof; recordation of filing in private register; inspection of files and records; request and identification; court order.**

Sec. 3. The judge of probate shall file a complete set of all papers in each case in a private file, and, within 10 days after the marriage, shall forward a duplicate to the registrar appointed by the state director of public health. The state director of public health shall file the duplicate in a private file and record the filing in a private register. The file in the probate court, and the duplicate and record in the state department of public health, shall be open to inspection only upon the written request and proper proof of identification of 1 or both of the partners to the marriage, or upon the written order of a judge of the circuit court of this state, and only for the use designated in the order. The order shall be made only upon the written request of the person or persons who were married under this act, or if necessary for the protection of property rights arising from or affected by the marriage.

**History:** 1897, Act 180, Eff. Aug. 30, 1897;—CL 1897, 8614;—Am. 1899, Act 232, Eff. Sept. 23, 1899;—CL 1915, 11389;—CL 1929, 12719;—CL 1948, 551.203;—Am. 1979, Act 133, Imd. Eff. Oct. 30, 1979.